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The RING

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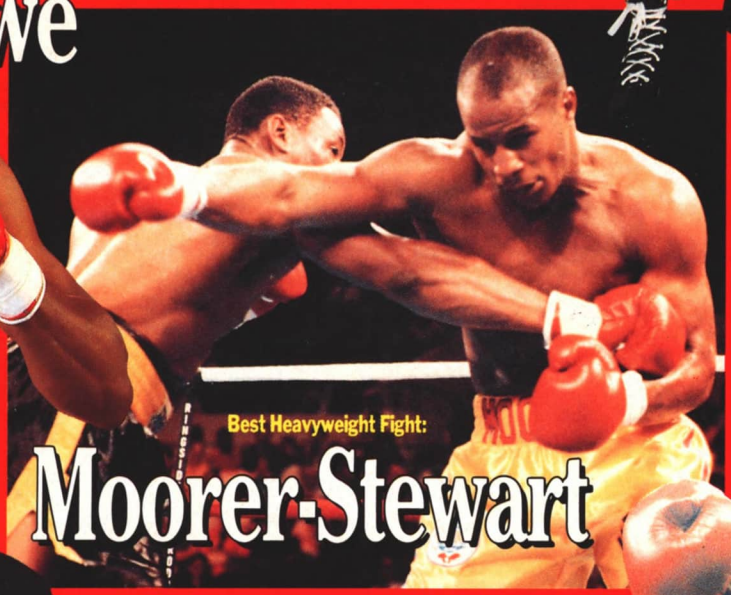
OUR EXCLUSIVE ANNUAL REPORT:

THE STATE OF THE GAME

Deserves A Heavyweight Title Shot:

Bowe



TV's Favorite Lightweight:

Paez

Best Heavyweight Fight:

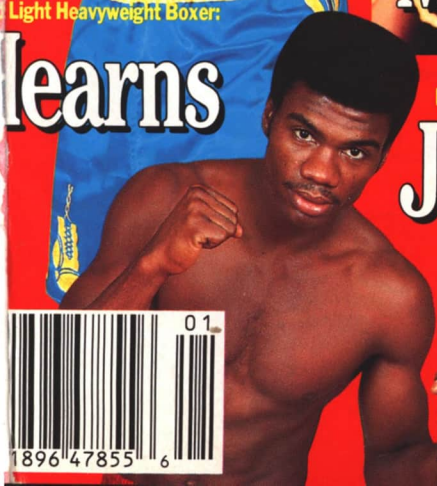
Moorer-Stewart

Best Heavyweight Puncher:

Tyson

Light Heavyweight Boxer:

Hearns



Best Middleweight Puncher:

Jackson

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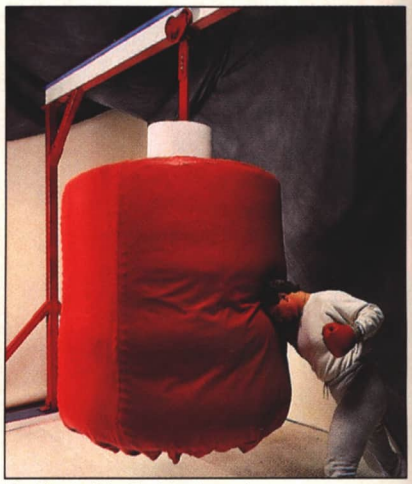

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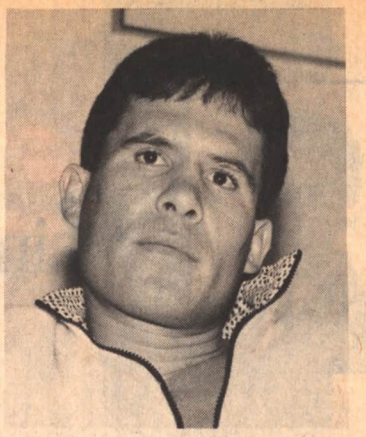

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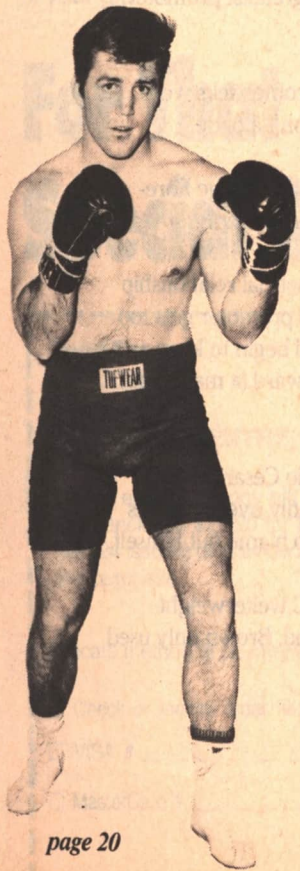
January 1992



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Ringside

The Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson title fight is all right. It's this simple: Any postponement is tantamount to a prejudgment of Tyson's guilt. And, as of now, he's been found guilty of nothing.

***

Larry Holmes is nothing if not smart. His comeback will culminate in a significant payday, but, ultimately, his chin will fail him, and his legs will show their age.

***

Harold Brazier or Terrence Alli, and not Lonnie Smith, deserved a title try at Julio Cesar Chavez. That Smith secured the title shot was no surprise; of the aforementioned three 140-pounders, only he is promoted by Don King. Chavez-Smith was an embarrassment, and the co-feature, Julian Jackson-Dennis Milton, was just as bad, but in a different way. The next time I hear that King is boxing's greatest promoter, I'm going to reach for a barf bag.

***

I'm kind of glad that Mark Breland's career is finally over. His comebacks were getting rather monotonous. Of course, the same can be said of Don Lalonde.

***

As a TV boxing analyst for Showtime, Mike Tyson was excellent. George Foreman on HBO? I'd rather listen to *Yoko Ono Sings The Best Of Iron Butterfly.*

***

Don King has often been criticized for enjoying a mutually beneficial relationship with the WBC. Obviously, it's not healthy for the game when one promoter gets too cozy with one sanctioning organization. Perhaps, then, we should begin to keep an eye on Cedric Kushner and the IBF. Not to mention Emanuel Steward (a manager, not a promoter) and the WBO.

***

Hector Camacho has publicly demanded $5-million to fight Julio Cesar Chavez. That means one of two things: He's petrified of Chavez, or he's sadly overrating his worth. Either way, Camacho is a falling star, and he has no one to blame but himself.

***

My upset special of the month: Buddy McGirt to dethrone WBC welterweight champion Simon Brown. McGirt is one of the better boxers around. Brown only used to be. If McGirt hears the final bell, he wins on points.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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Come Out Writing

The Rock punishes Lee Savold

Holmes outboxes Earnie Shavers

HEAVYWEIGHT TOURNAMENT

I thoroughly enjoyed your computer tournaments. But I found a major flaw in the heavyweight version. *Rocky Marciano getting canned in the tournament's very first round?* This was not only an injustice to the only undefeated champion in history, but proved the computer program was not as realistic as it was cracked up to be. What did you guys feed into the computer, horse manure? Something is wrong when a fighter like Jack Johnson, who stopped less than half of his real-life opponents, kayoes a man who was never stopped in his career! But I guess your programmer forgot one important element when he designed his program. It's called heart, and it's what separated the Alis and Marcianos from the rest of the pack.

RON ROSSI
Colorado Springs, CO

I'm a longtime and devoted reader of *The Ring*. I highly value the comprehensive coverage, good writing, and interesting features. I also enjoy the frequent injections of madcap humor, most notably your computer's determination that Jack Dempsey would have beaten Larry Holmes.

I realize that somewhere between nostalgic dopeyness and the love of debunking old heroes is a realistic assessment of fighters of yesteryear. But come on! Dempsey was aggressive, brave, punched with both hands, and hit hard for his size. I also remember him getting poleaxed by Luis Firpo and made to look amateurish by the boxing skills of a 190-pound Gene Tunney.

Holmes, on the other hand, had arguably the best jab of all heavyweights, unerring accuracy, excellent power, a good chin, great recuperative powers, size, intelligence, a strong defense, and a good record against brawlers.

As much as Dempsey earned his status as a legend, he would only have had a puncher's chance against Holmes. He never beat anyone who could be compared in size, speed, and skill to Holmes. Nostalgia is wonderful, but let's not get carried away.

DAN SAPINKOPF
Fresh Meadows, NY

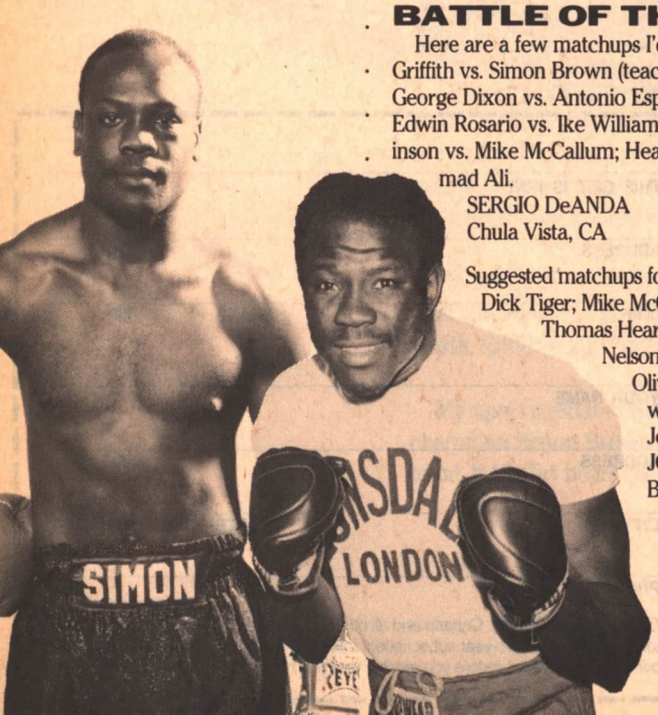
BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

Here are a few matchups I'd like to see in The Battle Of The Legends: Welterweights: Emile Griffith vs. Simon Brown (teacher vs. pupil); Barney Ross vs. Meldrick Taylor; Featherweights: George Dixon vs. Antonio Esparragoza; Lightweights: Benny Leonard vs. Pernell Whitaker; Edwin Rosario vs. Ike Williams; Middleweights: Marvin Hagler vs. Nigel Benn; Sugar Ray Robinson vs. Mike McCallum; Heavyweights: Mike Tyson vs. Joe Frazier; Joe Louis vs. Muhammad Ali.

SERGIO DeANDA
Chula Vista, CA

Suggested matchups for Battle Of The Legends: Middleweights: Marvin Hagler vs. Dick Tiger; Mike McCallum vs. Gene Fullmer; Light Heavyweights: Jose Torres vs. Thomas Hearns; Junior Lightweights: Flash Elorde vs. Jeff Fenech or Azumah Nelson; Bantamweights or Featherweights: Jeff Fenech vs. Ruben Olivares; Lightweights: Joe Brown vs. Alexis Arguello; Featherweights: Sandy Saddler vs. Eusebio Pedroza; Bantamweights: Eder Jofre vs. Jeff Chandler.

JOHN HORNER
Burnham, IL■



Dream matchup: Simon Brown vs. Emile Griffith

Volume 71, No. 1 January 1992

The RING

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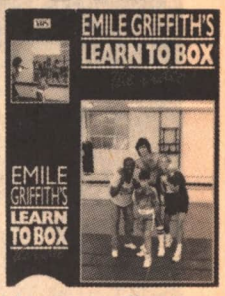

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MARK GIAQUINTO, Billboard.

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DAN HIRSCHBERG, *Boxing Today*

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Round One

Max: Teenage TV star

TEEN SENSATION

Max Kellerman is one teenage TV star who is never going to appear on the cover of *Tiger Beat* or stir up a riot in a shopping mall. It's fair to assume that this 18-year-old's show probably doesn't draw much of its ratings from prepubescent girls.

For the past two years, Kellerman has hosted *Max On Boxing*, a live call-in show that has aired more than 100 times on Manhattan Cable TV's channel 16, a public access station.

At age 16, Kellerman, who says he's been a boxing fan since age three, took the non-salaried job because he felt a need to express his views. "I would read or hear people in the press that I respect make outrageous predictions," he said. "I wanted my opinions to be heard."

Among those who heard Max' opinions was a producer from *Late Night With David Letterman*. After watching one of Kellerman's shows, he booked Max for a guest spot. After Kellerman appeared on *Late Night* earlier this year, Letterman promised to invite the wunderkind back "before the next big fight."

"The angle was 'the kid with the show,' " Kellerman said of his visit with Letterman. "But I wanted to talk about Pernell Whitaker and Jeff Fenech."

Max On Boxing has been put on hold temporarily while Kellerman attends classes as a freshman at Connecticut College. You can bet that he'll be finished with his term papers in time for the opening bell of Holyfield-Tyson.

—Jody Schwartz

LaPorte: Moving up

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Former featherweight champion Juan LaPorte, 31, who has failed in two tries for the junior lightweight crown, has reportedly jumped all the way to junior welterweight . . . Former middleweight champion Michael Nunn was arrested in Los Angeles for allegedly hitting his girfriend . . . Sugar Ray Leonard donated $10,000 to Kid Akeem, who is recovering from serious head injuries sustained during his unsuccessful title try against IBF 115-pound champion Robert Quiroga in June . . . In August, former world featherweight champion Johnny Famechon was hit by a car in Sydney, Australia. Famechon, 46, suffered serious head injuries and was listed in critical condition . . . Former lightweight champion Jimmy Paul is reportedly ready to return under the Kronk banner . . . Junior featherweight Jesse Benavides was arrested in Corpus Christi, Texas, for suspicion of driving while intoxicated.

A BUSY FIGHTER

The following series of records was sent to *The Ring* by Dick Mastro, the Editor and Publisher of *Official Boxing Record*. The information came from official commission reports.

RAMON ZAVALA, Bell, CA
Born: Sept. 29, 1960 (Social Security # 642-27-8201)
Aug. 13, 1991: L 10 Oba Carr, Tampa, FL (weight: 141¾)

Zavala: An identity crisis?

RAMON ZAVALA, Venezuela
Born: Sept. 29, 1957 (SS # 560-10-8220)
Dec. 13, 1990: KO 1 Louie Lomeli, Rosemont, IL (138)

RAMON ZAVALA, Venezuela
Aug. 20, 1990: KO 2 Andres Sandoval, Tijuana, Mexico
Sept. 24, 1990: L Disq. 6 Ramon Marchena, Tijuana, Mexico

RAMON ZAVALA, Venezuela
Born: 1957 (SS # 354-16-2742)
June 22, 1990: L 10 Ricky Hesia, Honolulu, HI (140)

RAMON ZAVALA, Los Angeles, CA
Born: Sept. 29, 1957
May 15, 1990: W 4 Igor Ruhznikov, San Diego (137)

RAMON ZAVALA, Los Angeles, via Venezuela
Born: Sept. 29, 1959
Aug. 30, 1989: W 10 Rosenberg Rosas, Los Angeles (136½)
Nov. 29, 1989: L 10 Anthony Jones, Auburn Hills, MI (137½)
April 7, 1990: L 6 Jeff Mayweather, Las Vegas (135)

Even if there is more than one Ramon Zavala, what are the odds that the various Zavalas would have the same birthday? Draw your own conclusions. All we know is that if Zavala collects a social security check for every one of his SS numbers, he's sure going to enjoy his twilight years.

AN UNLIKELY REUNION

In July 1989, middleweight legend Carlos Monzon was found guilty of murdering his former lover, Alicia Muniz. This past spring, at his jail in Junin, Argentina, the former champion received an unexpected guest.

Nino Benvenuti, 53, is a star journalist for an Italian television and radio network and a publicist for the Italian Boxing Federation. He was in Buenos Aires on business—and to see the fighter who had taken his world middleweight title in 1970.

Monzon-Benvenuti II

On the morning of May 14, Benvenuti made the two-hour drive from Buenos Aires to Junin and spent an hour with Monzon, who works as a prison disk jockey. Benvenuti hoped to record their conversation, but no tape recorders or note pads—and no cameras—were allowed.

"I saw a Monzon who was very strong and confident, and in good health," Benvenuti told *The Ring*. "I must admit that in our last talk [in December 1989], he was a broken man. But not now. He believes in God and justice. He's a different man. Remember, he's a grandfather now, and he knows important things are waiting for him in the future. [Monzon is scheduled for release in about nine years.]

"We didn't talk about our common past. He's like me—he thinks only in the future. We are not old . . . "

—Carlos Irusta

THE PUNCHLINE

John Beyrooty, the boxing publicist at the Great Western Forum, noting heavyweight Everett Martin's lack of power vs. Bonecrusher Smith: "From now on, it's Everett 'Big Foot, Little Sock' Martin." ■

Michael Moorer

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended September 18, 1991

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Records Compiled By Eric Armit

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *41-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *27-0-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *42-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 MICHAEL NUNN
Davenport, IA *36-1*

5 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *51-5-1*

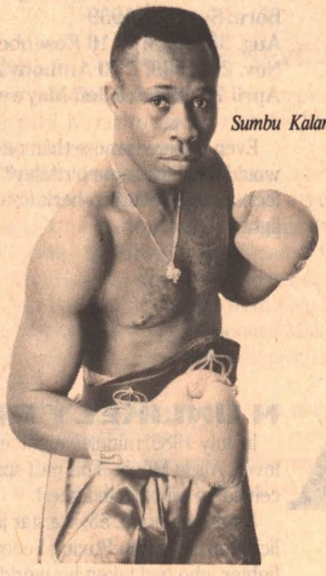
6 CHRIS EUBANK
England *28-0*

7 STEVE COLLINS
Brockton, MA *20-1*

8 MICHAEL WATSON
England *25-3-1*

9 NIGEL BENN
England *29-2*

10 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *29-2-1*


Sumbu Kalambay

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *29-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 GILBERT DELE
France *29-0-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *52-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Tucson, AZ *24-0*

5 JORGE CASTRO
Argentina *61-2-2*

6 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *32-1*

7 VERNON PHILLIPS
New York, NY *14-5*

8 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *31-1*

9 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *30-5*

10 JORGE VACA
Mexico *44-8-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 MARCOS VILLASANA
Mexico *54-7-2 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *39-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *20-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 TROY DORSEY
Mansfield, TX *13-4-4*

5 MAURIZIO STECCA
Italy *43-1*

6 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *25-1-1*

7 JOSE MARTINEZ
Hanford, CA *16-4-1*

8 ELOY ROJAS
Venezuela *22-1*

9 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *23-0*

10 RICARDO CEPEDA
Bronx, NY *23-1-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1*

2 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *29-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *32-2-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico *43-5-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 KIYOSHI HATANAKA
Japan *22-2-1*

6 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA *39-4*

7 PEDRO DECIMA
Argentina *26-3*

8 TRACY PATTERSON
New Paltz, NY *42-2*

9 BABY SUGAR ROJAS
Colombia *34-4-1*

10 JEMAL HINTON
District Heights, MD *19-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX *28-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 GREG RICHARDSON
Youngstown, OH *29-3 (WBC Champ)*

3 LUISITO ESPINOSA
Philippines *25-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 RAUL PEREZ
Mexico *48-2-2*

5 PEPILLO VALDEZ
Mexico *39-3-1*

6 ISRAEL CONTRERAS
Venezuela *33-2-1*

7 DUKE McKENZIE
England *30-2*

8 YONG HOON LEE
South Korea *19-0*

9 THIERRY JACOB
France *30-3*

10 EDDIE COOK
Las Vegas, NV *15-0*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA *25-0 (World Champ)*

2 **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY *41-1*

3 **RIDDICK BOWE**
Brooklyn, NY *26-0*

4 **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
Canada *25-3-1*

5 **TIM WITHERSPOON**
Philadelphia, PA *35-3*

6 **RAY MERCER**
Newark, NJ *17-0*

7 **GEORGE FOREMAN**
Marshall, TX *69-3*

8 **TONY TUCKER**
Beverly Hills, CA *41-1*

9 **LENNOX LEWIS**
England *16-0*

10 **MICHAEL MOORER**
Detroit, MI *25-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

2 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *39-5 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *12-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *32-2 (WBC Champ)*

5 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

6 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-2-1*

7 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *18-1*

8 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *30-3*

9 **JOHNNY NELSON**
England *21-5-1*

10 **DWIGHT QAWI**
Lindenwold, NJ *36-8-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *31-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Las Vegas, NV *30-1*

4 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **DENNIS ANDRIES**
Detroit, MI *39-9-2*

6 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *29-2*

7 **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
Germany *31-0*

8 **ANDREW MAYNARD**
Laurel, MD *17-1*

9 **ANTHONY HEMBRICK**
Beckley, WV *20-1-1*

10 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *12-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *15-2 (WBA Champ)*

2 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *29-1*

4 **LINDELL HOLMES**
Detroit, MI *44-6-1*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *17-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

7 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2*

8 **RANDALL YONKER**
Mobile, AL *20-1*

9 **TARMO UUSIVIRTA**
Finland *23-3-3*

10 **JAMES COOK**
England *17-8*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *28-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *34-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Brentwood, NY *53-2-1*

4 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *32-2*

5 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *34-1*

6 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *38-2-2*

7 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *23-0*

8 **HIROYUKI YOSHINO**
Japan *19-3-1*

9 **SANTOS CARDONA**
Puerto Rico *21-3*

10 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
San Jose, CA *27-1-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *76-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
Las Vegas, NV *40-6*

3 **EDWIN ROSARIO**
Puerto Rico *37-4 (WBA Champ)*

4 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *47-7-2*

5 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *21-1*

6 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

7 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *28-4-1*

8 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *28-2-1*

9 **JUAN COGGI**
Argentina *51-2-2*

10 **PAT BARRETT**
England *30-1-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *26-1 (World Champ)*

2 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *31-17-3*

3 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *39-3-4*

4 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *26-1*

5 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *35-4*

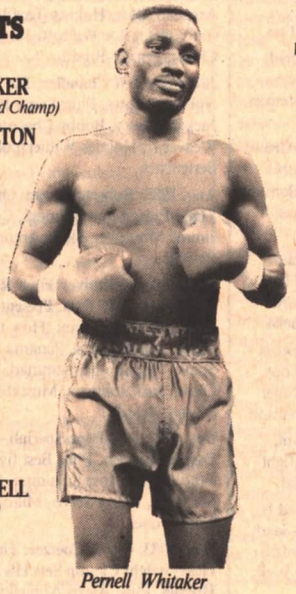
6 **JUAN NAZARIO**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

7 **ANTHONY JONES**
Detroit, MI *29-3-1*

8 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *31-1*

9 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *24-0*

10 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*



Pernell Whitaker

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-0-1*

2 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **BRIAN MITCHELL**
South Africa *43-1-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *37-3-1*

5 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *25-0 (WBA Champ)*

6 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *24-3*

7 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *23-0*

8 **DANIEL LONDAS**
France *55-7-1*

9 **EUGENE SPEED**
Palmer Park, MD *20-0*

10 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *23-1-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **KHAOSAI GALAXY**
Thailand *48-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *18-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *15-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

5 **THALERNSAK SITHBAOBEY**
Thailand *35-2*

6 **NANA KONADU**
Ghana *19-2-1*

7 **JOHNNY TAPIA**
Albuquerque, NM *21-0-1*

8 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *42-8-1*

9 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *21-5-3*

10 **DAVID GRIMAN**
Venezuela *11-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *14-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *23-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SOT CHITALADA**
Thailand *24-3-1*

6 **JUNG KOO CHANG**
South Korea *38-4*

7 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *8-0*

8 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *24-0*

9 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *24-3-1*

10 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *17-0*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-0 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *20-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *31-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *29-3-3*

5 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *18-2-1*

6 **ROLANDO PASCUA**
Philippines *26-6*

7 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-0*

8 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

9 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

10 **JERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines *12-0-1*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Lightweight

3 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Welterweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **MIKE TYSON**
Heavyweight

6 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
Light Flyweight

7 **JEFF FENECH**
Junior Lightweight

8 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

9 **KHAOSAI GALAXY**
Junior Bantamweight

10 **SIMON BROWN**
Welterweight

Evander Holyfield

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July 1982: Leonard: Is It All Over For Sugar Ray? Plus: Ray Mancini, Greg Page, first-round kayos, Jack Johnson, Ray Robinson, Mancini-Frias.

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Nov. 1982: Special Pryor-Arguello Program. Plus: Earnie Shavers, Robeto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Gerry Cooney, LaPorte-Miranda.

Jan. 1983: Dwight Braxton: "How I Will Beat Spinks." Plus: Pryor-Arguello—Fight of the Year, Frank Fletcher, Rocky Marciano, Curry-Starling I, Hagler-Obel II.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Chacon-Limon, Mickey Walker, Ray Mancini.

March 1983: (104-Page Year-End Special)—Larry Holmes: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, history of featherweights.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Hall of Fame (Monzon, Foster, Burley), Stanley Ketchel, Duran-Cuevas, Wilford Scypion.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Tony Ayala, Mancini-Arguello color, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson?, Jersey Joe Walcott, Jung-Koo Chang, Frazier-Broad.

July 1983: Jeff Chandler: The Best Fighter Nobody Knows. Plus: Sugar Ray Seales, Jack Dempsey, Bobby Chacon, Dokes-Weaver II, Holmes-Witherspoon, Paul Berlenbach.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time! Plus: After Holmes?, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future. Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.

Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making. Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue. Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough! Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

August 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

September 1991: George Foreman: A Four-Decade Man And Still Not Ready To Hang 'Em Up. Plus: Charley Burley, Alex Garcia, Danny Lopez, Jackie "Kid" Berg, computer middleweight tournament, boxing's greatest years, Ortiz-Whitaker, "heavy-hitting" *Ring* covers (color).

October 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

November 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

December 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

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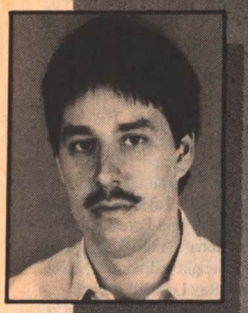


Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

MISSING THE MOUTH

It isn't easy to look at Howard Cosell these days. His hands tremble so uncontrollably that scratching his ear looks like hard work. His eyes, windows to the soul, have been broken into and robbed of their emotion. They water all the time, no matter if he's remembering his good friend Jackie Robinson, or pontificating on the need to stop taking baseball so seriously. His basset-hound mug, the face that launched a thousand caricatures, now seems merely tired, worn-out, sad.

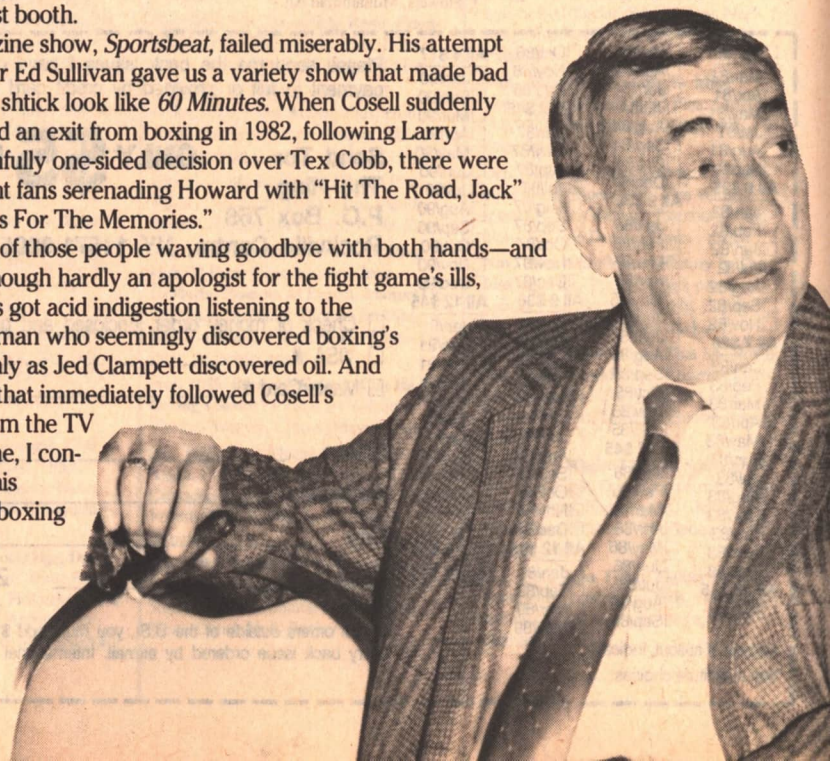
If it's hard to look at Cosell these days, it's even tougher to listen to him. Despite personal tragedies like the death of his wife, Emmy, he hasn't mellowed. If anything, he is more bitter, more pompous, more convinced than ever that the unforgettable decade of the '60s, the career of Muhammad Ali, and such an American institution as *ABC's Monday Night Football* would have been nothing without him. He wasn't the straw that stirred the drink. No, to hear him tell it, he was the whole gin mill. If he so desired, he could have been a senator. Heck, if God's job wasn't already taken . . .

When Cosell informed the world of the murder of John Lennon, as he did on a *MNF* telecast in 1980, it was only right. He was the perfect one to do it. That's what he recently said, as though there had been some kind of contest. As though a bunch of envious journalists sat around in a green funk, kicking themselves about it for years afterward.

Roone Arledge, the former boss of ABC Sports, points out that Cosell drew big ratings only when the event he was covering demanded attention. Nobody was going to tune in to watch him work Texas Stadium unless the Steelers and Cowboys happened to be running around down on the field at the same time that he was at his pulpit up in the broadcast booth.

His magazine show, *Sportsbeat*, failed miserably. His attempt to be another Ed Sullivan gave us a variety show that made bad Borscht Belt shtick look like *60 Minutes*. When Cosell suddenly grandstanded an exit from boxing in 1982, following Larry Holmes' painfully one-sided decision over Tex Cobb, there were far more fight fans serenading Howard with "Hit The Road, Jack" than "Thanks For The Memories."

I was one of those people waving goodbye with both hands—and both feet. Though hardly an apologist for the fight game's ills, I nonetheless got acid indigestion listening to the ravings of a man who seemingly discovered boxing's ills as suddenly as Jed Clampett discovered oil. And in the years that immediately followed Cosell's dismount from the TV boxing throne, I concluded that his leaving cost boxing nothing.



A large part of that conclusion was surely my anger at his hypocrisy. That hypocrisy still rankles. But nine years later, after listening to countless fight broadcasters and stepping back to evaluate Cosell's work irrespective of his personality, I've changed my mind. The truth is, his leaving cost a lot. While I don't miss having Cosell as an unavoidable part of our pop culture, I *do* miss having him as a fight announcer.

Don't ask me why. I'm not entirely sure what particular skills he brought to a telecast. I only know what a telecast was when he worked it, and it was great theater. Cosell provided drama. Not the phony "this-is-the-greatest-cruiserweight-tuneup-fight-in-the history-of-West Virginia" drama an Al Albert or Barry Tompkins brings to a USA or ESPN clubshow. I mean *real* drama. The simple fact that Cosell was working the bout meant it *was* important.

Who creates that setting these days? Len Berman on TVKO? Jim Lampley on HBO? Hardly. CBS' Tim Ryan, NBC's Marv Albert, and ABC's Dan Dierdorf, as good as they are, don't give you the impression that any one fight is more significant than another. In the '70s and early-'80s, when ABC bought the delayed rights to many big fights, I remember sitting in closed-circuit theaters, listening to freelancing robots announce the fights, then telling myself that I couldn't wait to watch ABC's replay and hear Cosell's interpretation of the unfolding script.

Ali and Cosell were symbols of the '60s. When "The Greatest" finally retired, "The Mouth" left boxing soon after.

Cosell was a presence. I remember only one thing about the second Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight, a boring sleepwalk that didn't belong sandwiched among their epic first and third wars. What I remember is Cosell being wedged against a turnbuckle by the crush of the crowd as he attempted to interview Ali, and hollering for some police protection.

People still laugh at Cosell's cry, DOWN GOES FRAY-ZIER! DOWN GOES FRAYZIER! DOWN GOES FRAY-ZIER!,when George Foreman toppled Smokin' Joe in 1973. But does anyone remember any other knockdown or knockout call that well?

To the purist, Humble Howard could be a nightmare. He often missed some action, misidentified the punches, and thought aloud. One of his colleagues at ABC once told me that virtually every observation a hysterical Cosell made during the unforgettable Foreman-Ron Lyle slugfest in 1976 was wrong. So what? I could always see with my own eyes who was hitting whom. As the great Don Dunphy once said, "Don't tell me what I can already see, but instead tell me why what I'm watching is special."

Cosell hardly created Sugar Ray Leonard, as he believes, but he gave him one hell of a jumpstart. When Cosell became enamored of the young Olympian's skills and personality in Montreal in '76, that told us this was a fighter worth watching. So we watched and soon became captivated, too. Name one broadcaster today who could help launch an athlete toward stardom. You can't.

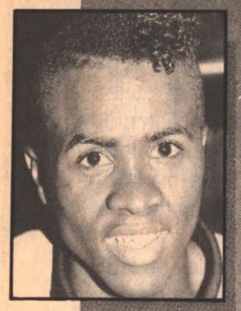
As he became more famous, Cosell committed a broadcasting sin by becoming part of many of the stories he was covering. But again, he never did it without being entertaining. When Scott LeDoux and Johnny Boudreaux tangled after their fight in the ill-fated U.S. Boxing Championships in 1977, Cosell's toupee was knocked askew. When Gerry Cooney and Larry Holmes went after each other following Holmes' kayo of Leon Spinks, Cosell emerged with a bloody lip. When Frazier and Ali wrestled on the floor of a TV studio, Cosell was there to inform us that, contrary to popular belief, Frazier was not play-acting.

The inimitable Cosell: An iconoclast who is more pompous and bitter than ever.

I wouldn't ever want to see the current Cosell come back again. One megadose of his hypocrisy per lifetime is enough. I only wish that the old Cosell was in his prime today. Funny, but for a guy who was known as "The Mouth," and had to fill the role of both blow-by-blow announcer *and* analyst, he spewed out far less verbiage than you get on *any* boxing telecast these days. Look back at some of the old tapes, then watch one of today's telecasts, and you just might agree. Maybe you'll be convinced that when I lament the absence of The Wig, I haven't actually flipped mine.

Though he certainly doesn't laugh much these days, Howard Cosell can laugh now. He can smugly read this column—if he'd ever lower himself—and think about all the times that he said there was nobody like him, that he wouldn't soon be replaced.

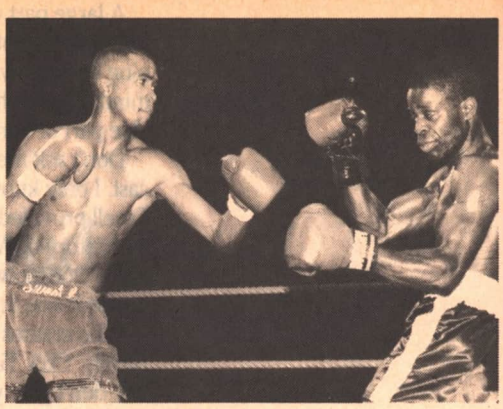
Kills me to admit it, but he was right.■



New Faces

By David Kelly

Photos Courtesy of Boxing News



McMillan outboxed Marcel Herbert in 1989

"I can't recall getting as excited about a prospect as I have about Colin McMillan."
—Former WBA featherweight champion Barry McGuigan

Until quite recently, Colin McMillan worked full-time as a technician for British Telecom, a major telephone company. Now, at age 25, he's a full-time fighter, the British featherweight champion, and one of the most gifted young boxers in the world.

"Having a full-time job did take it out of me," said McMillan. "It wasn't so much physical as a lot of mental pressure."

Today, there is less pressure on "Sweet C" for other reasons as well. He is self-managed, but advised by journalist Jonathan Rendall. And while he has a fiancee and daughter to look after, he knows that good paydays are on the way.

Heavily influenced by his idols, Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard, McMillan began boxing at age 15. He compiled an amateur mark of 68-7, but in four tries failed to win his country's most prestigious amateur crown, the English ABA title (Amateur Boxing Association). No matter; upon turning pro in November 1988, he showed the speed and class that make him special.

McMillan hasn't been perfect—his sole setback came on cuts. In 1990, he received valuable tutelage in the United States, at the hands of veteran handler Beau Williford. He won twice stateside, and in May, a few months after his return to England, he was ready to challenge Gary DeRoux for the British 126-pound crown.

DeRoux came at the challenger in his customary style, hustling and setting himself to throw bombs. But McMillan never gave him a chance. From the opening bell, he glided across the ring and scored with four- and five-punch combinations.

"I expected DeRoux to be a durable fighter, and it to be a hard fight," McMillan said.

Considering the punishment he absorbed, DeRoux proved quite durable, indeed. By the fourth, McMillan was showboating and taunting his foe, and by the seventh, DeRoux was squinting through badly bruised eyes. In that round, a flurry of hooks and uppercuts dropped the champion. He rose, but was rescued moments later by the referee. In the British weekly *Boxing News*, Claude Abrams called McMillan's victory "one of, if not *the* most, complete boxing performances I have seen from a British fighter in recent times."

McMillan's immediate plans include the winning of a Lonsdale Belt (accomplished by making two successful defenses of the national title) and then a challenge of European featherweight champion Fabrice Benichou.

"There's another 50 percent still to come from Colin," said Sweet C's British trainer, Howard Rainey. "That's how good he is."

David Kelly is a freelance writer based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. ■

Colin McMillan

Featherweight

PRO RECORD

	1988	
Nov. 29	Mike Chapman, Battersea	W 6
Dec. 10	Aldrich Johnson, Crystal Palace	W 6
	1989	
Jan. 31	Alan McKay, Bethnal Green	KO by 3
June 12	Miguel Matthews, Battersea	KO 3
Sept. 19	Graham O'Malley, London	W 6
Oct. 11	Marcel Herbert, London	W 6
Nov. 30	Sylvester Osuji, Barking	KO 4
	1990	
Feb. 14	Vidal Tellez, London	KO 2
April 17	Jesus Muniz, London	W 8
May 5	Steve Walker, Kensington	W 6
July 5	Tyrone Miller, Greenville, MI	KO 2
July 17	Malcolm Rougeau, Lake Charles, LA	KO 1
Sept. 25	Darren Weller, London	KO 2
Oct. 10	Graham O'Malley, London	W 6
Nov. 12	Mark Holt, Norwich	W 8
	1991	
March 5	Russel Davison, London	W 6
April 26	Willie Richardson, Crystal Palace	W 8
May 22	Gary DeRoux, London	KO 7
July 3	Herbie Bivalacqua, Reading	KO 3

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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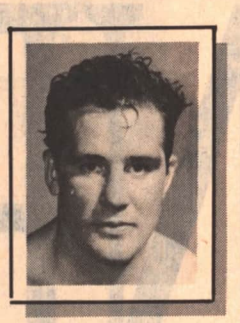
BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.

Billy Conn

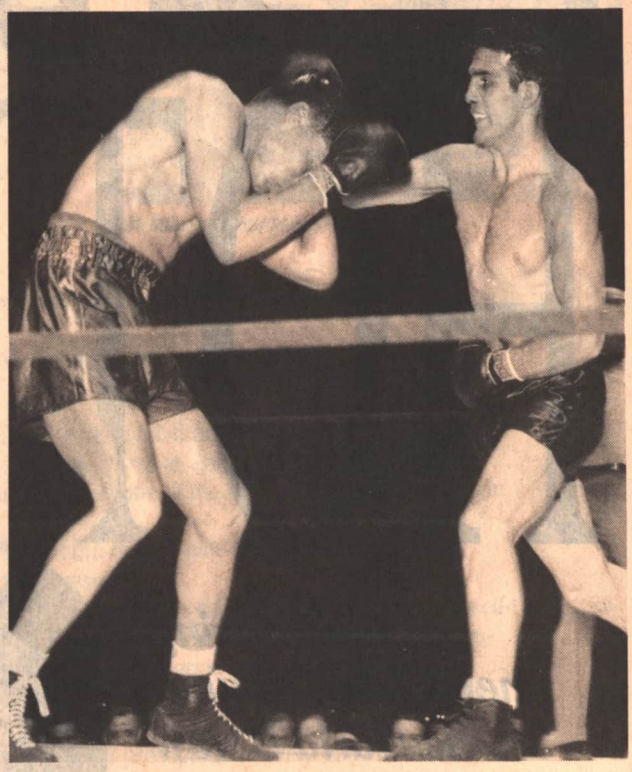
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Career: 1934-1946
63-10 with 14 kayos



Although he is most famous for losing a fight he almost won, "The Pittsburgh Kid" was considered one of the best boxers of the late-'30s and early-'40s. Conn, who won the vacant light heavyweight title with a 15-round decision over Melio Bettina in July 1939, combined speed with movement to outclass his foes.

The Irishman defended three times, outpointing Bettina in a rematch and decisioning Gus Lesnevich twice. He vacated in the spring of 1941 in order to challenge heavyweight champion Joe Louis.

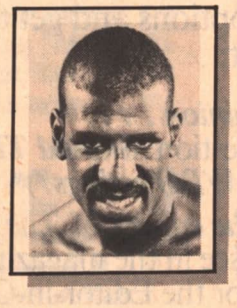
For most of the fight, Conn used his superior quickness to befuddle Louis. He led on points after 12 rounds, but, ignoring his corner's advice to stay away and box, foolishly tried to kayo the "Brown Bomber." The challenger was stopped with two seconds left in the 13th round. Five years later, and after World War II had interrupted the careers of both fighters, Louis won the disappointing rematch in eight rounds.



Conn dominated much of his 1941 heavyweight title fight vs. Joe Louis, confusing the champion with speed and defense. He was ultimately stopped in the 13th round.

Michael Spinks

St. Louis, Missouri
Career: 1977-1988
31-1 with 21 kayos



Skilled, intelligent, and awkward, Spinks, a 1976 Olympic gold medalist, caused headaches for opponents with his stiff jab and dangerous right hand, known as the "Spinks Jinx." The younger brother of former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks, Michael won the WBA light heavyweight crown with a points win over Eddie Mustafa Muhammad in July 1981 and unified the title 20 months later by decisioning WBC champion Dwight Muhammad Qawi. He made a total of 10 defenses.

In September 1985, just three months after his final light heavyweight title defense, Spinks bulked up to 200 pounds and outpointed IBF heavyweight champion Larry Holmes. He became the first reigning 175-pound titlist to capture the heavyweight crown. After two successful defenses, including a controversial rematch decision over Holmes, Spinks was stripped for pulling out of a unification tournament. In 1988, he suffered a career-ending first-round kayo at the hands of Mike Tyson.

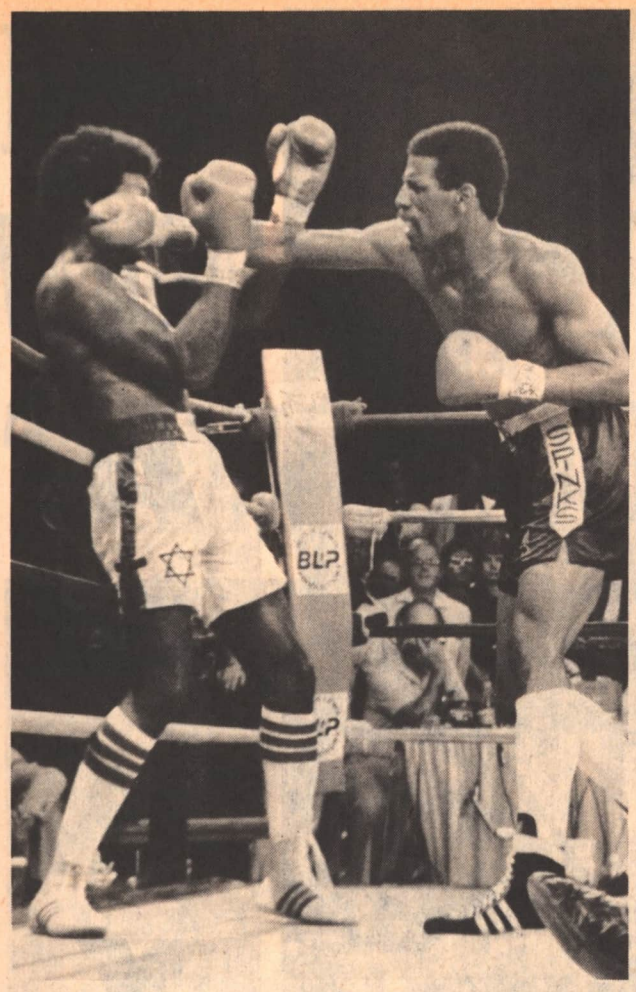
JACK FISKE

Remember, Spinks was a full-fledged light heavy, while Conn, despite holding the 175-pound title and later fighting heavyweights, was actually a built-up middleweight. Conn wasn't a puncher, and his four victories in light heavy title fights—two each against Melio Bettina and Gus Lesnevich—came against light hitters.

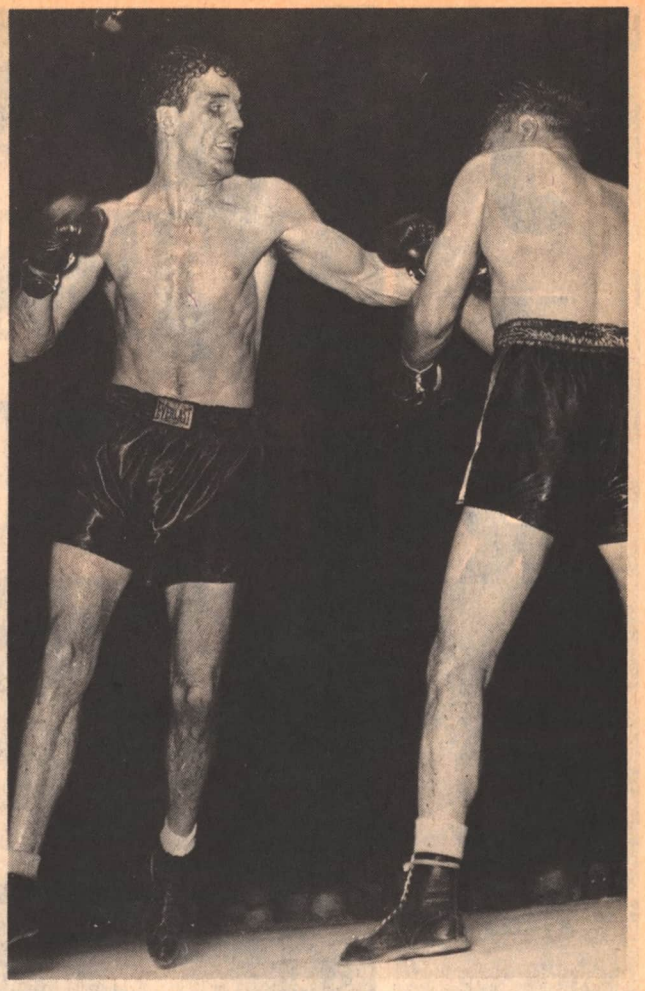
At 6'2" and 175 pounds, Spinks would be physically stronger than Conn, who fluctuated between 170 and 173 for his title fights. More importantly, Spinks could punch, with eight of his 10 successful defenses coming by kayo. Some of his challengers were dog meat, and he had trouble with Oscar Rivadeneyra and an aged Eddie Davis. Also, I'll go to my grave feeling he didn't deserve to win either time against Larry Holmes. But he could be cute and box his way out of trouble—something he wouldn't have to do against Conn—and he could stick to his game plan.

It's heresy for an old-timer to go with a modern-day fighter over the legendary Conn, but here's a vote for Spinks by decision, not knockout. Only a Joe Louis could finish off Billy Conn.

Jack Fiske, known as the godfather of boxing writers, is a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle.



As a 175-pound champion, Spinks was overwhelming. Challenger Johnny Davis got a close look at the "Spinks Jinx" during his September 1982 title challenge.

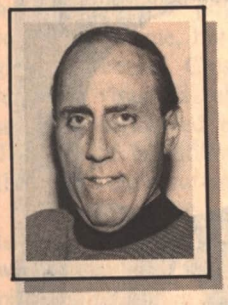


In November 1940, Conn, then light heavyweight champion, decisioned Lee Savold in a non-title match. The victory moved him toward a showdown with Joe Louis.

BOB SHERRICK

I never saw Conn live, but I've seen whatever films there are available—the Louis fights and Bettina. He was a beautiful boxer with a great chin and a lotta heart. His two 1939 fights with Fred Apostoli were classics. He was pretty fast for a light heavyweight, and remember, he licked heavyweights, too.

Spinks was a winning fighter. He was awkward, with a very odd style. He never impressed me. He didn't fight the type of opposition that Conn did, and he didn't have the all-around mechanics. He also knocked out a lotta guys who were rank amateurs.



Both fighters were slow starters. Conn would feel out Spinks for the first two or three rounds, then completely outbox him. Spinks would be confused by Conn's speed. I don't see Spinks bothering him at all. Conn wasn't a big puncher, but he was sharp. He was really only about 168 pounds when he fought Louis, and he rocked him with a hook. Conn by TKO in the 10th or 11th round.

Bob Sherrick is a New York-based boxing historian and fight film collector.

BILL CAYTON

This is a very interesting matchup. In their respective primes, both were excellent fighters and genuinely tough men. The Conn of the late-'30s and early-'40s was a terrific boxer.

The first time he fought Joe Louis, Louis was in *his* prime, and Conn gave Joe fits. Had it not been for his bravado, Conn probably would have won the heavyweight title.

Spinks was also a good boxer and did everything you'd expect from a champion. He had good power, a good chin, and moved well in the ring.

Conn would use his edge in both speed and boxing ability. Spinks would try to apply pressure, but I don't think he'd be too successful. As good as Spinks was, he just didn't have the speed or boxing ability to stay with Conn. I don't see Spinks doing much damage with his right hand; Conn was able to avoid Louis' best punches until he tried to out-tough Joe.

Spinks might win a round here or there, but I see Conn winning most of them. Conn by unanimous decision.

Bill Cayton is the manager of junior welterweight champion Edwin Rosario and, as president of Big Fights Inc., owns the world's largest collection of fight films. ■

JERRY QUARRY

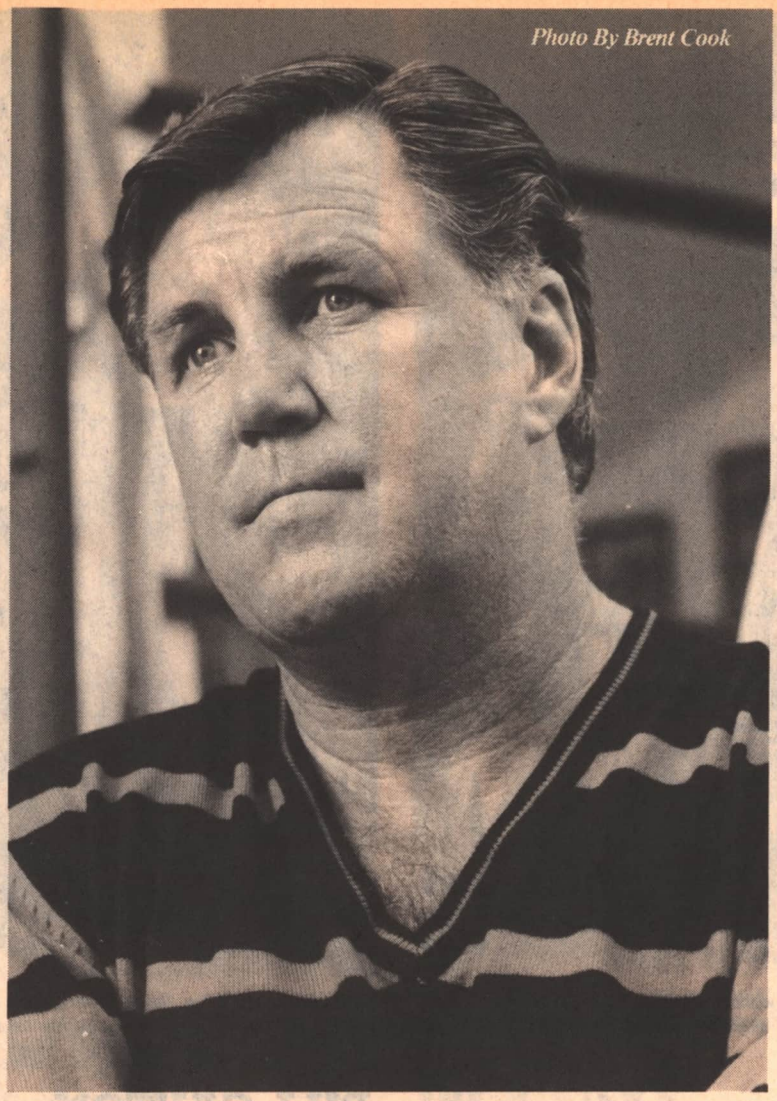


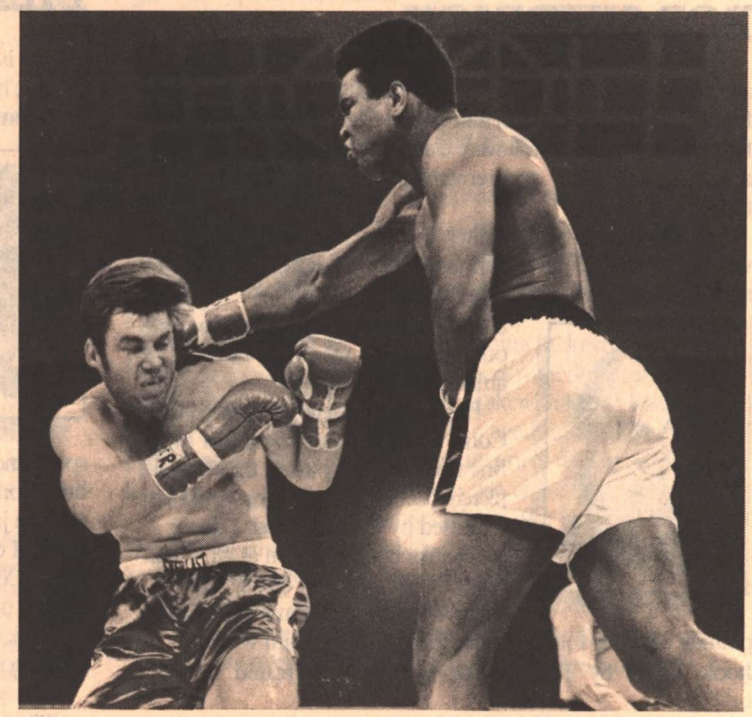
Photo By Brent Cook

I've been in the ring with best of all men
Some say the best of all-time.
In boxing you are only as good as your last fight
So you are only as good as your time.
In the ring with Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali is a memory I looked on with pride
I fought with my heart but needed much more.
A bridesmaid but never the bride.
I look at my past, great memories abound
For I fought, I bled and I cried.
I gave it my all round after round
And the world knows that I tried.
—Jerry Quarry, 1991

By Robert Cassidy

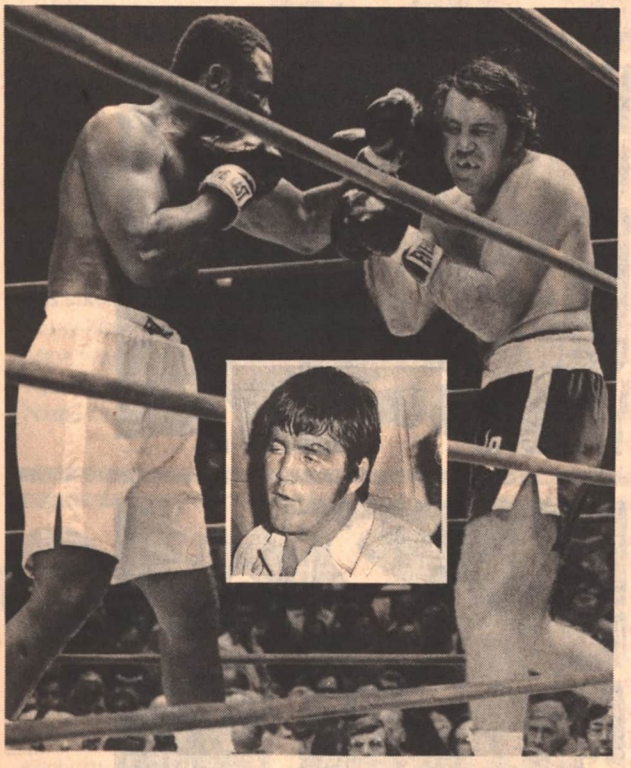
Carved among the lines on Jerry Quarry's face are the scars that 12 years in the heavyweight division have left. The White Hope of the '70s is 46 now and about 25 pounds heavier than when he fought. Ironically, after all those years of struggling against bigger men, he has finally become a legitimate heavyweight.

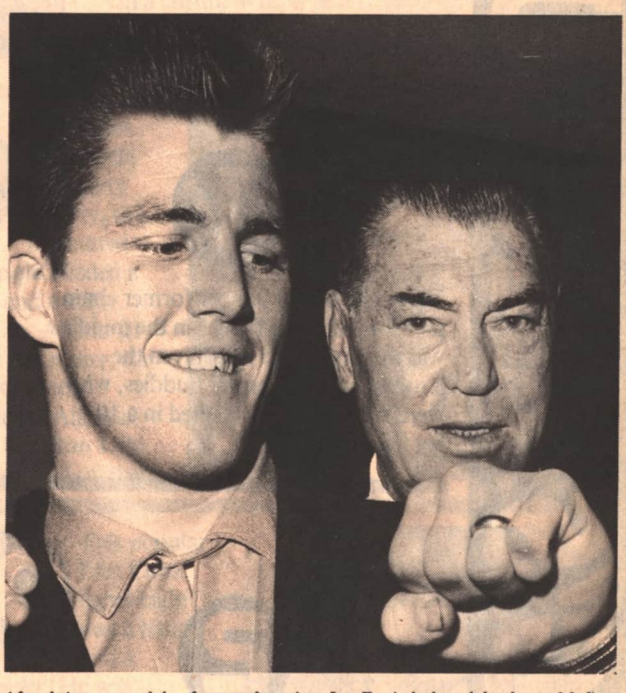
He is two decades removed from his



Muhammad Ali stopped Quarry on cuts in October 1970. Losses to Ali and Joe Frazier continue to haunt the former contender, a heavyweight who fought during the division's strongest years.

BORN TOO SOON . . . WITH A LIFETIME TO THINK ABOUT IT





After being stopped by former champion Joe Frazier's brutal hooks at Madison Square Garden in June 1974, Quarry showed the scars of war (left and inset). A 20-year-old Quarry with the legendary Jack Dempsey in March 1966 (above).

prime, and it has been eight years since his last fight. The physical scars have receded with time, but Quarry's struggle hasn't ceased. Closer inspection of his fleshy visage reveals a man that is seemingly tormented by his own life. The pain of unfulfillment runs deeper than any wound suffered inside a ring.

Life has not been particularly kind to Quarry. It is quite possible that he would have been a heavyweight champion had he fought in almost any other era. While most of the public conjures up memories of Quarry as a gallant also-ran, he is, in his own mind, cursed by his failure to capture the title.

What also stings Quarry's psyche is the fact that his era was immediately followed by perhaps the worst era in heavyweight history. Mike Weaver, Pinklon Thomas, and Trevor Berbick, fighters who wouldn't have dented the top 10 in the mid-'70s, led a pack of mediocre fighters who, from 1980 to 1986, held versions of the heavyweight crown.

"It doesn't make me angry," Quarry told *The Ring*. "It just makes me a bit envious of the era that they're in. We have to live with what we are dealt during our own time. Right now, if I fought again, if I got a license, there are several of them that I could beat."

The word *comeback* has never been far from Quarry's lips. He remains driven to seize glories that have long passed him by, and, like most former athletes, has underestimated the deterioration of his skills. He launched a two-fight comeback in 1983 and saw another comeback attempt end last year after an altercation with his promoter. As recent as August he was denied a boxing license in the states of California and Nevada. Will he try again?

"No," Quarry said, laughing. "But I'm going to stay in shape. The itch will always be there, but the fact is I'm 46 years old. Regardless of that, if you come and watch me work in the gym, it'll blow you away."

(Continued on page 61)

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE PHOTO QUIZ Test

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

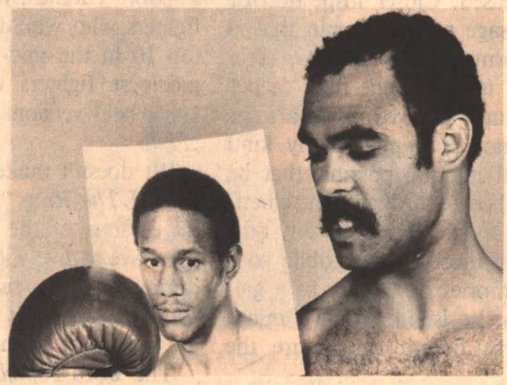
1

Name this trio of dapper former champions. Hints: The fighter in the middle was the first world titlist from the Kronk Gym. His bigger buddies, who were friendly rivals, clashed in a 10-rounder in 1977.

2

During his lengthy title reign, Marvelous Marvin Hagler scored only one first-round stoppage. Coincidentally, it came in his only career appearance in Atlantic City. Who was his hapless victim?

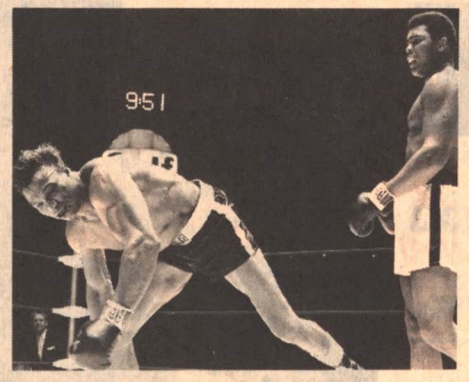
3



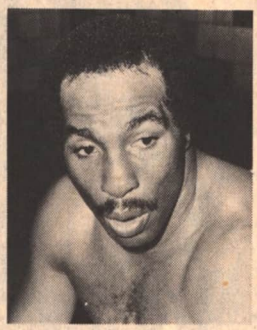
The fighter with the sneer became a world champion exactly one week after the object of his affections. These co-titlists never fought, partly because one of them lost the crown in his first defense. Name them.

Your Boxing IQ

4 During which fight was Muhammad Ali at his very best? Ask 100 Ali-watchers and the majority will recall "The Greatest's" first title reign and his defense vs. . . . Name Ali's kayo victim.

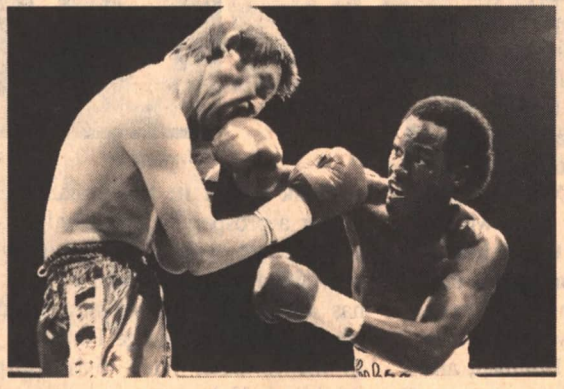


5 The first of our Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow questions: This photo was taken in 1973. This heavy-hitting heavyweight is *not* wearing a hairpiece. Name him.



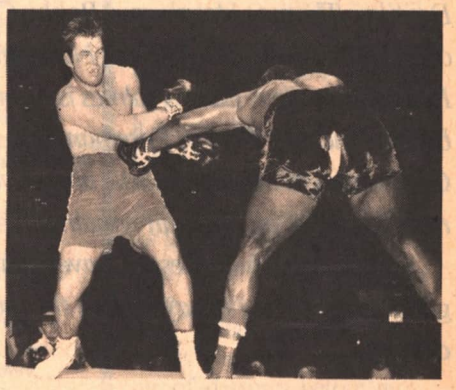
6 Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow, Part II: This Olympic medalist became a world champion in the '70s. He kept the sideburns, but lost a lot off the top. Name him.

7 Ouch! In three unsuccessful tries at the welterweight title, this Welshman absorbed too many punches like the one being delivered by Donald Curry. Identify him.



8 This fighter's bite was much more dangerous than his bark. A junior middleweight clubfighter who fought often on ESPN, he once came into the ring in a coffin. Who is he?

9 During his 1969 battle with Jerry Quarry, this big-butted heavyweight needed a cutman and a tailor. Name him. A hint: In addition to Quarry, the behemoth faced Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, and Ron Lyle —and lost to all of them.



10 This popular East Coast lightweight was a banger and a bleeder. He was supposed to challenge Ray Mancini for the WBA lightweight title, but never secured the shot. Name him.

ANSWERS:

1) From left: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Hilmer Kenty, and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad; 2) Caveman Lee; 3) Billy Costello and Johnny Bumphus; 4) Cleveland Williams; 5) Earnie Shavers; 6) Marvin Johnson; 7) Colin Jones; 8) Vampire Johnson; 9) Buster Mathis; 10) Kenny "Bang" Bogner

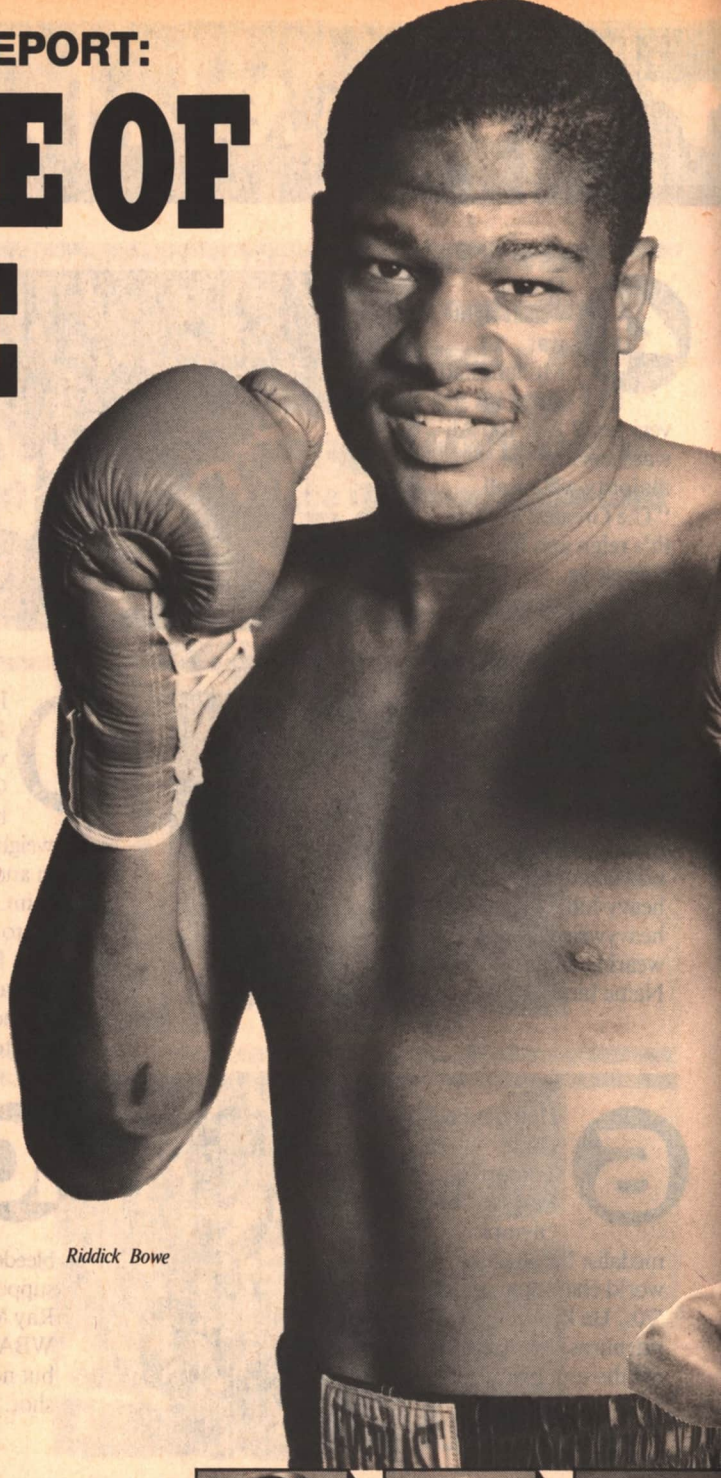
OUR EXCLUSIVE ANNUAL REPORT:

THE STATE OF THE GAME

by Steve Farhood

*Last year, **The Ring** gave its first State of the Game address. Much, of course, has happened over the past 12 months. Sugar Ray Leonard's gone, and, for all intent and purpose, so is Buster Douglas. Thomas Hearns and Bobby Czyz are champions again, and Michael Nunn and "Jibaro" Perez have fallen. Larry Holmes is trying to become the new George Foreman, and Mark Gastineau and Mickey Roarke are proving that if matched right, **anyone** can remain unbeaten.*

Well, at least Julio Cesar Chavez can, which is as good a way as any of saying that the more things change . . .



Riddick Bowe

HEAVYWEIGHTS

If a strong heavyweight division is indeed a panacea, then forget about dwindling sponsorship, pay-per-view ripoffs, and the shenanigans of all those alphabet organizations. Instead, break out the champagne and toast the fight game's health.

As of this writing, two delicious matchups (Tyson's legal problems aside), Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson, and George Foreman vs. the winner, would keep the heavyweight division at the forefront for at least another year. Recent performances indicate that Riddick Bowe, a fresh and refreshing face, will be waiting for the survivor. Moreover, Michael Moorer is a most dangerous and intriguing X-factor, and in another year there will be a new Olympic super heavyweight champion to toss into the mix—unless it's a Cuban.

The heavyweight title is unified, and the division is hotter than it's been since the days of Ali, Frazier, Foreman, and Norton. How bad can boxing be?

Best Puncher
Mike Tyson

Best Boxer
Riddick Bowe

Most Protected
Lennox Lewis

Favorite Opponent
Michael Greer

Matchmaker's Dream
Mike Tyson-George Foreman

Best-Kept Secret
Phil Jackson

Deserves A Title Shot
Riddick Bowe

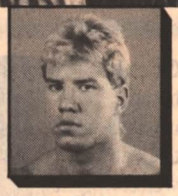
TV's Favorite
Tommy Morrison

On The Way Down
Alex Stewart

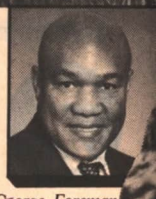
Underrated
Tony Tucker

Best Fight This Year
Michael Moorer KO 4 Alex Stewart

Michael Moorer



Tommy Morrison



George Foreman

Think About It: More than ever before, one loss can shatter a prospect's hopes. Judging by *The Ring's* ratings, a single defeat is most damaging at heavyweight. Our heavyweight top 10, which includes five unbeaten fighters, has a combined nine losses. (And two of those losses, which belong to **George Foreman**, came in the mid-'70s.) In the 15 other rated divisions, the top 10s average a combined *23* losses.

CRUISERWEIGHTS

What can you say about a division that is banking on a proposed matchup between Bobby Czyz and Thomas Hearns? At first glance, Czyz seems like a poor man's Jimmy Connors. After flopping at middleweight and flirting with retirement following a pair of beatings issued by Prince Charles Williams at light heavyweight, he's hot again. Incredibly, Czyz isn't even 30 yet. Hearns is also older than his age—the "Hit Man" is 33—and should they clash, don't expect the Fight of the Year.

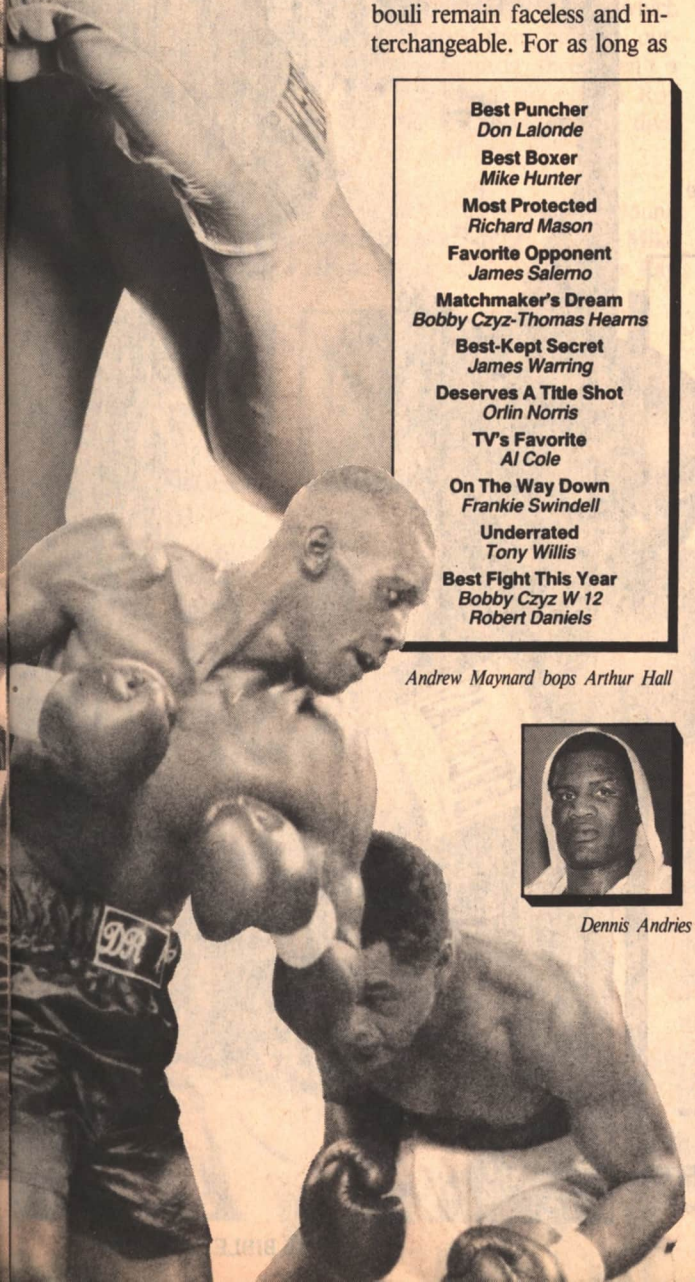
Bobby Czyz

Al Cole

Don Lalonde

If Al Cole tickles your turnbuckles, the rest of the cruisers are for you. Don Lalonde could provide some drama, but Johnny Nelson, Massimiliano Duran, Anaclet Wamba, and Taoufik Belbouli remain faceless and interchangeable. For as long as attractions like Michael Spinks and Michael Moorer jump from 175 pounds all the way to heavyweight, the cruisers are doomed. There's no big money to be made here, as Czyz and Hearns are likely to soon discover.

Best Puncher
Don Lalonde
Best Boxer
Mike Hunter
Most Protected
Richard Mason
Favorite Opponent
James Salerno
Matchmaker's Dream
Bobby Czyz-Thomas Hearns
Best-Kept Secret
James Warring
Deserves A Title Shot
Orlin Norris
TV's Favorite
Al Cole
On The Way Down
Frankie Swindell
Underrated
Tony Willis
Best Fight This Year
Bobby Czyz W 12 Robert Daniels



Andrew Maynard bops Arthur Hall

Dennis Andries

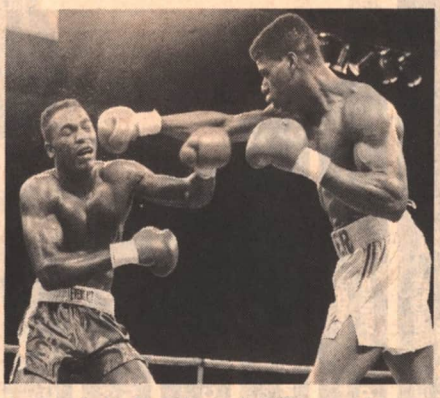
Think About It: Why This Division Is A Bad Joke, Part XXVII: In 1980, **Marvin Camel** became the first WBC champ when he outpointed **Mate Parlov**. Parlov never fought again. In 1982, **Ossie Ocasio** became the first WBA champ when he decisioned **Robbie Williams**. In his next fight, Williams was kayoed in the first round. In 1983, Camel became the first IBF champ when he stopped **Roddie MacDonald**. In his next *two* fights, MacDonald was kayoed in the third round.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

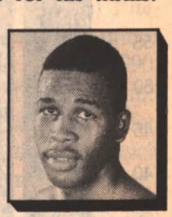
Where have all the matchups gone? Michael Moorer is a heavyweight. Virgil Hill has been dethroned. Andrew Maynard and Anthony Hembrick have already lost their Olympic luster. Thomas Hearns may jump to cruiserweight, and Bobby Czyz already has. Only Charles Williams remains, but he's been content defending against forgettable foes. The Prince, it seems, has no desire to be king.

Best Puncher
Booker Word
Best Boxer
Thomas Hearns
Most Protected
Dennis Andries
Favorite Opponent
Mike Sedillo
Matchmaker's Dream
Thomas Hearns-Prince Charles Williams
Best-Kept Secret
Henry Maske
Deserves A Title Shot
Graciano Rocchigiani
TV's Favorite
Andrew Maynard
On The Way Down
Vincent Boulware
Underrated
Leeonzer Barber
Best Fight This Year
Thomas Hearns W 12 Virgil Hill

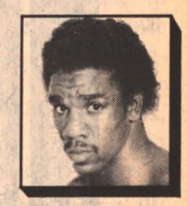
From the beginning of Bob Foster's reign to the end of Michael Spinks', this division was more intriguing than most. It's cold and dead today, however, and unless Hearns makes a couple of defenses before moving up, the future offers little hope. If you owned stock in the 175-pounders, would you feel confident with a top-10 pool of talent that includes Isaias Lucero, Yawe Davis, and Guy Waters? An intelligent investor would liquidate to minimize his losses and look elsewhere for his thrills.



Leeonzer Barber blasts Roosevelt Williams



Anthony Hembrick



Charles Williams

Think About It: Call it a sign of the times. In *The Ring's* 175-pound top 10, there are only two fighters, **Andrew Maynard** and **Anthony Hembrick**, who aren't, or haven't been, world champions of one kind or another. It's just as bad at junior featherweight, where only **Tracy Patterson** and **Jemal Hinton** have been shut out.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

On March 28, 1984, at Harrah's Marina in Atlantic City, Murray Sutherland decisioned Ernie Singletary in what should have been a cable-televised 10-rounder. Instead, it was a historic matchup: boxing's first 168-pound world title fight. In the seven years since, the division has served as the unofficial home of the Seniors Tour (Leonard-Hearns II, Hearns-Kinchen, Leonard-Duran III). If light heavyweights are destined to fade away as cruiserweights, then middleweights became destined to fade away as super middleweights. But that's about to change.

IBF champion Darrin Van Horn is 23 and, if nothing else, unpredictable. WBA king Victor Cordoba, 28, is among boxing's most underrated champions. The British trio of middleweights Chris Eubank, Nigel Benn, and Michael Watson, none older than 27, may move up en masse. And Michael Nunn, 28, established himself as a super middleweight title threat the day he rose in weight. This division may turn out okay after all.

Best Puncher
Victor Cordoba

Best Boxer
Michael Nunn

Most Protected
Dan Schommer

Favorite Opponent
Lenzie Morgan

Matchmaker's Dream
Michael Nunn-Nigel Benn

Best-Kept Secret
Henry Wharton

Deserves A Title Shot
Tony Thornton

TV's Favorite
Tony Thornton

On The Way Down
Ron Essett

Underrated
Merqui Sosa

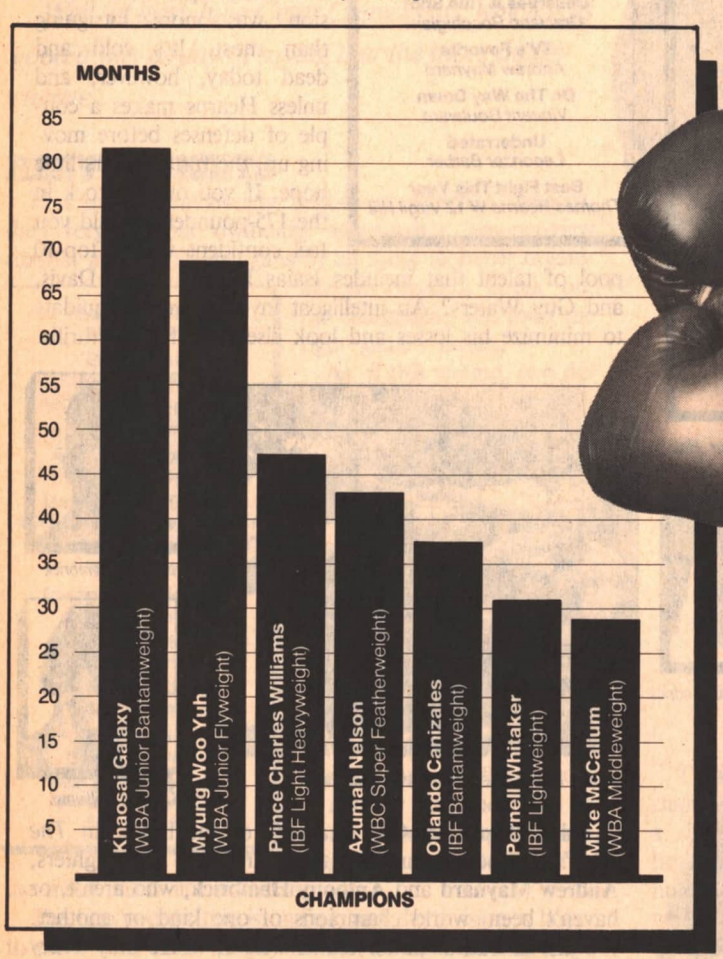
Best Fight This Year
Victor Cordoba KO 9 Chris Tiozzo

Think About It: It wasn't long ago that Panama was consistently producing championship talent, like **Ismael Laguna, Roberto Duran, Ernesto Marcel, Eusebio Pedroza,** and **Hilario Zapata**. Today, Panama's sole world titlist is WBA king **Victor Cordoba,** who fights out of Northern Ireland. The ratings include a handful of respectable Panamanian contenders, especially in the lightest divisions **(Silverio Barcenas, Leon Salazar, Ernesto Ford),** but it seems that this tiny country has lost its special place in boxing.

Darrin Van Horn

LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPIONS

The following shows boxing's most established champions, and the number of months of their uninterrupted reigns.



Note: After winning the IBF lightweight crown, Pernell Whitaker unified the title.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

In December, champions Mike McCallum (WBA) and James Toney (IBF) will clash in a unification battle. The result will determine the direction of the division. McCallum is 34, established, and colorless. Toney is 23, inexperienced, and brash. Julian Jackson, the WBC champion, is more exciting than both, but he's had retinal surgery on both eyes, and at this point seems a short-term proposition. Too bad, because he's boxing's most dangerous one-punch cruncher. Just ask Dennis Milton.

Best Puncher
Julian Jackson

Best Boxer
Mike McCallum

Most Protected
Thomas Tate

Favorite Opponent
Eddie Hall

Matchmaker's Dream
Mike McCallum-Julian Jackson

Best-Kept Secret
Segundo Mercado

Deserves A Title Shot
Chris Eubank

TV's Favorite
Steve Collins

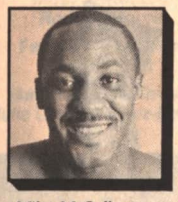
On The Way Down
Herol Graham

Underrated
Sumbu Kalambay

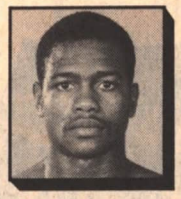
Best Fight This Year
Mike McCallum W 12 Sumbu Kalambay

Michael Nunn is gone, which, judging by most of his title fight performances at this weight, is cause for celebration. Junior middleweight champion Terry Norris promises to move up in the immediate future, which is a good thing because, outside of Lamar Parks and Reggie Johnson, there aren't a helluva lot of sparkling prospects. Keep an eye on Roy Jones. If he decides to accelerate, he could be the division's best fighter by this time next year.

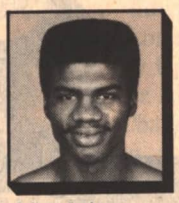
Think About It: Boxing has always been a young man's game, except in this division. WBA champ **Mike McCallum** is today's second-oldest titlist. Both **Sugar Ray Robinson** and **Roberto Duran** held the crown at age 38, and **Joey Giardello, Tony Zale**, and **Carlos Monzon** were still champs at 35. Among the others who were middle kings while in their 30s: **Harry Greb, Ceferino Garcia, Gene Fullmer, Marcel Cerdan, Carmen Basilio, Emile Griffith, Rodrigo Valdes**, and **Marvin Hagler.**



Mike McCallum



Roy Jones



Julian Jackson

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Where are Mo Hope and Rocky Mattioli when you need them? Two reasons why this is one of boxing's weakest divisions: 1) After retiring Sugar Ray Leonard and Donald Curry, WBC champion Terry Norris has nowhere to go but up—as in up to middleweight. The available competition is so uninspiring that Norris' promoter has suggested a Leonard rematch; 2) Vinny Pazienza, who will remain marketable until he can no longer make a fist, jumped from 140 to 154 pounds, won one fight (against clubfighter Ron Amundsen), and immediately secured a try at WBA champion Gilbert Dele.

Best Puncher
Julio Cesar Vasquez

Best Boxer
Terry Norris

Most Protected
Gianfranco Rosi

Favorite Opponent
Ron Amundsen

Matchmaker's Dream
Terry Norris-Meldrick Taylor

Best-Kept Secret
Carl Daniels

Deserves A Title Shot
Jorge Castro

TV's Favorite
Vinny Pazienza

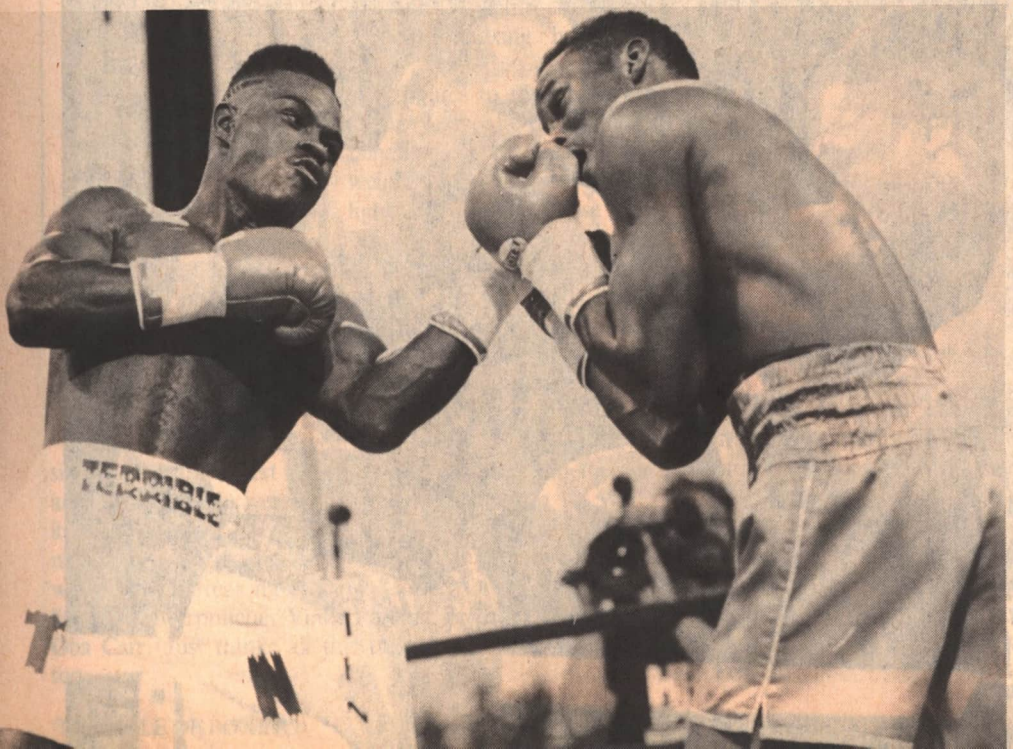
On The Way Down
Tyrone Trice

Underrated
Gilbert Baptist

Best Fight This Year
Terry Norris KO 8 Donald Curry

Dele, the greatest fighter in the history of Guadeloupe, is unknown everywhere else. IBF champion Gianfranco Rosi has made six defenses, which is tied for fourth on the list of active champions. If he keeps fighting pretender-contenders like Kevin Daigle and Amundsen, he'll make it an even dozen. There are, however, plenty of young hopefuls, including Americans Carl Daniels, Glen Modicue, Stephen Martinez, and William Jones.

Think About It: The comeback of New York's **Vernon** (aka **Verno**) **Phillips** qualifies as a minor miracle. In April 1990, Phillips lost a six-round decision to Olympian **Kenny Gould**, which dropped him to a forgettable 8-4. Seven months later, Phillips traveled to Argentina, and he's since scored four big wins, including upsets over a pair of top-10 contenders, **Hector Vilte** and **Julio Cesar Vasquez**. Phillips is now rated in the top 10 of the WBC (at welterweight) and WBA, and is rated 12th by the IBF.



Terry Norris finishes Donald Curry

WELTERWEIGHTS

Who needs Julio Cesar Chavez? This division is chockfull of talent, and the upcoming matchup between WBC champion Simon Brown and Buddy McGirt rates among boxing's best. Ideally, the winner will clash with WBA king Meldrick Taylor, who, with Chavez still residing one division below, seems in desperate need of a big fight. Maurice Blocker should defeat the overprotected Glenwood Brown for the vacant IBF title. If he does, he'll rate as the third-best welterweight champion, but he'll still be a grade above the first- or second-rated titlists of most of the other divisions.

Best Puncher
Simon Brown

Best Boxer
Buddy McGirt

Most Protected
Crisanto Espana

Favorite Opponent
Darryl Lattimore

Matchmaker's Dream
Simon Brown-Meldrick Taylor

Best-Kept Secret
Yuri Boy Campas

Deserves A Title Shot
Maurice Blocker

TV's Favorite
Glenwood Brown

On The Way Down
Engels Pedroza

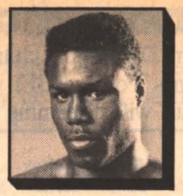
Underrated
David Gonzalez

Best Fight This Year
Simon Brown KO 10 Maurice Blocker

If Chavez never moves up, the 147-pounders probably won't suffer. Among the prospects ready to rise: Northern Ireland-based Venezuelan Crisanto Espana, California's David Gonzalez, and Mexico's 19-year-old Yuri Boy Campas, 35-0 (32). With Engels Pedroza and Robert Wangila sliding, Campas could become the division's premier kayo threat.

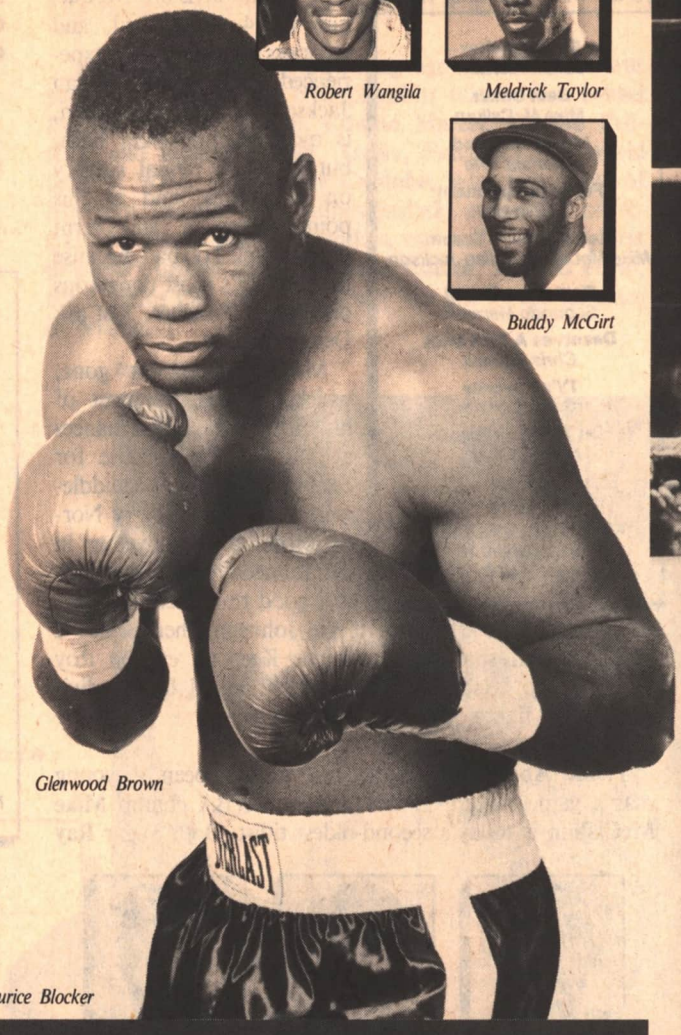
Think About It: Maybe winning a world title isn't worth the trouble. Over the past few years, several welter champs have given up their belts without a fight. **Sugar Ray Leonard** was the unified titlist when he retired in 1982. **Lloyd Honeyghan** and **Simon Brown** relinquished the WBA and IBF titles, respectively, for "political reasons." And **Tomas Molinares** returned the WBA crown because he couldn't make 147 pounds.

Robert Wangila



Meldrick Taylor

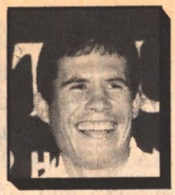
Buddy McGirt



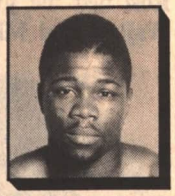
Glenwood Brown

Simon Brown vs. Maurice Blocker

Hector Camacho outpoints Greg Haugen



J.C. Chavez



Charles Murray

Terrence Alli

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Forget that J.C. Superstar is the best fighter in the game. Forget that the 140-pound class has been boxing's best for the past few years. Forget that there are still more fighters worthy of top-10 consideration in this division than any other. Just consider some of the fights of the past few months: Edwin Rosario destroys Loreto Garza in a candidate for Upset of the Year; Terrence Alli shocks hot prospect Charles Murray; Greg Haugen and Hector Camacho, born to be rivals, split a pair of corkers. The heavyweights aside, this is where boxing has been most alive.

Best Puncher
Rafael Pineda

Best Boxer
Charles Murray

Most Protected
Rodney Moore

Favorite Opponent
David Taylor

Matchmaker's Dream
Julio Cesar Chavez-Pernell Whitaker

Best-Kept Secret
David Kamau

Deserves A Title Shot
Terrence Alli

TV's Favorite
Harold Brazier

On The Way Down
John Meekins

Underrated
Alberto Cortes

Best Fight This Year
Terrence Alli W 12 Charles Murray

It figures to remain so. In recent years, the division has benefited from the rise in weight of several quality lightweights. Well, those 135-pounders just keep on coming. The latest are Puerto Rico's Angel Hernandez and Dominican prospect Pedro Sanchez. Undisputed champion Pernell Whitaker may soon follow. Those who scream for a return to the eight original divisions just don't get it, do they?

Think About It: Last year, we told you that this division was boxing's best because talents like **Harold Brazier** and **Rafael Pineda** weren't able to crack our top 10. Well, it's still number one. Brazier and Pineda have been winning, but you still won't find them in our ratings. Nor will you find streaking **Rodney Moore**, Olympian **Romallis Ellis**, powerpuncher **Vince Phillips**, or the highly touted **Oba Carr**. Just think: all this talent, and **J.C. Superstar**, too.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Undisputed champion Pernell Whitaker is an extraordinary talent, but at this point, he'll have to look up (Julio Cesar Chavez) or down (Jeff Fenech) for suitable competition. In the late-'70s, Roberto Duran ran out of opponents and rose in weight. Whitaker has threatened to travel the same road after defending against Jorge Paez. Should he do so, a slew of respectable, but not outstanding, 135-pounders, all of whom have been jockeying for position in anticipation of "Sweet Pea's" jump, will try for the three vacated titles.

Best Puncher
Tracy Spann

Best Boxer
Pernell Whitaker

Most Protected
Todd Foster

Favorite Opponent
Tommy Hanks

Matchmaker's Dream
Pernell Whitaker-Jeff Fenech

Best-Kept Secret
Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Deserves A Title Shot
Darryll Tyson

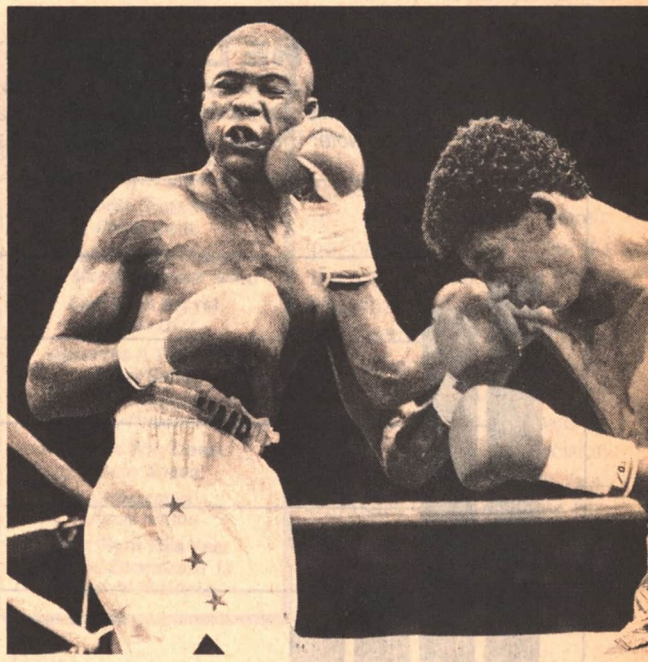
TV's Favorite
Jorge Paez

On The Way Down
Kenny Vice

Underrated
Fred Pendleton

Best Fight This Year
Jorge Paez W 10 Tracy Spann

A guess at the lineups: For the IBF title, Fred Pendleton vs. Tracy Spann. For the WBA title, junior lightweight champion Joey Gamache, who can no longer comfortably make 130, vs. former featherweight champion Antonio Esparragoza. For the WBC title, Korea's Chil Sung Chun vs. Darryll Tyson. Should Paez perform adequately in losing to Whitaker, don't be surprised is he slides into one of the six spots.



Kelcie Banks feels the power of Fidel Avendano

Think About It: This division is weaker than it's been in years, primarily because so much of its prime talent has jumped to junior welter (**Julio Cesar Chavez, Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho, Greg Haugen, Roger Mayweather**). It looks as if it's payback time. In recent months, the lightweights have been fortified by an influx of talent from below. Among the feathers and junior lights who have moved up: **Rafael Ruelas, Jorge Paez**, and **Frankie Mitchell**. Among those who may move up soon: **Jeff Fenech**.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

A pair of matchups made the year gone by both satisfying and frustrating. Brian Mitchell and Tony Lopez fought twice. After failing to unify the IBF and WBA titles with their March draw, Mitchell relinquished the WBA title and won the IBF crown with a decision over Lopez in September. At least both verdicts seemed just; Azumah Nelson's (WBC) struggle against triple-crown champion Jeff Fenech was boxing's Robbery of the Year. The judges scored a draw, denying triple-crown titlist Fenech a fourth crown.

Best Puncher
Regilio Tuur

Best Boxer
John-John Molina

Most Protected
Joey Gamache

Favorite Opponent
Fili Montoya

Matchmaker's Dream
Brian Mitchell-Jeff Fenech

Best-Kept Secret
Eugene Speed

Deserves A Title Shot
Genaro Hernandez

TV's Favorite
Tony Lopez

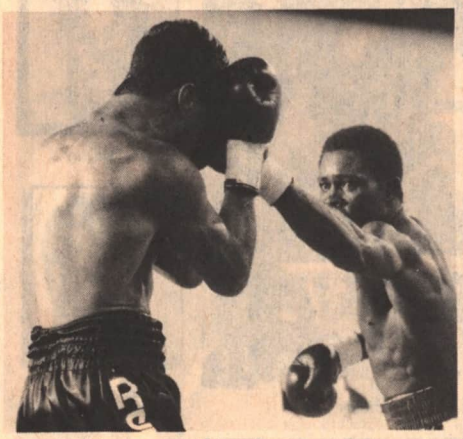
On The Way Down
Lupe Gutierrez

Underrated
Hector Lizarraga

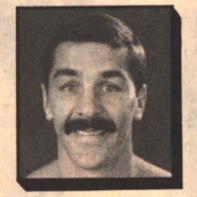
Best Fight This Year
Tony Lopez D 12 Brian Mitchell

Don't expect such excitement this year. With the exception of a thrilling run in the early-'80s, this has consistently been one of boxing's dullest divisions. Look for a return to form, with both Fenech and the recently dethroned Lopez to rise in weight, Mitchell to ponder retirement, and Nelson to fade away. A boxer, Genaro Hernandez, a puncher, Regilio Tuur, and two boxer-punchers, Gabe Ruelas and Eugene Speed, are promising prospects, but unless they fight each other, there will be little action here.

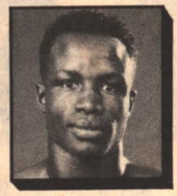
Think About It: When WBA champ **Brian Mitchell** fought to a draw with IBF champ **Tony Lopez** in March, he broke **Tod Mitchell's** division record for most consecutive successful defenses. (It was Mitchell's last defense before relinquishing the title.) Over the past year, **Myung Woo Yuh** broke **Jung Koo Chang's** junior fly record (17 defenses and counting), **Khaosai Galaxy** broke his own junior bantam record (18 and counting), and **Gianfranco Rosi** tied the junior middle record (six) held by **Koichi Wajima** and **Mike McCallum**.



Azumah Nelson pops Jeff Fenech



Brian Mitchell



Regilio Tuur

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Since the mid-'70s, the 126-pounders have had at least one marquee champion. Consider the names: Danny Lopez, Eusebio Pedroza, Salvador Sanchez, Barry McGuigan, Wilfredo Gomez, Jeff Fenech, Antonio Esparragoza, Azumah Nelson, Jorge Paez. Today's undistinguished trio of kings, Marcos Villasana, Yung Kyun Park, and Manuel Medina, don't measure up. But at least they've provided some surprises. Villasana, who won the title in his fifth try, has made three successful

Best Puncher
Eloy Rojas

Best Boxer
Manuel Medina

Most Protected
Cedric Mingo

Favorite Opponent
Pee Wee Parker

Matchmaker's Dream
Yung Kyun Park-Troy Dorsey

Best-Kept Secret
Colin McMillan

Deserves A Title Shot
Tom Johnson

TV's Favorite
Jesse James Leija

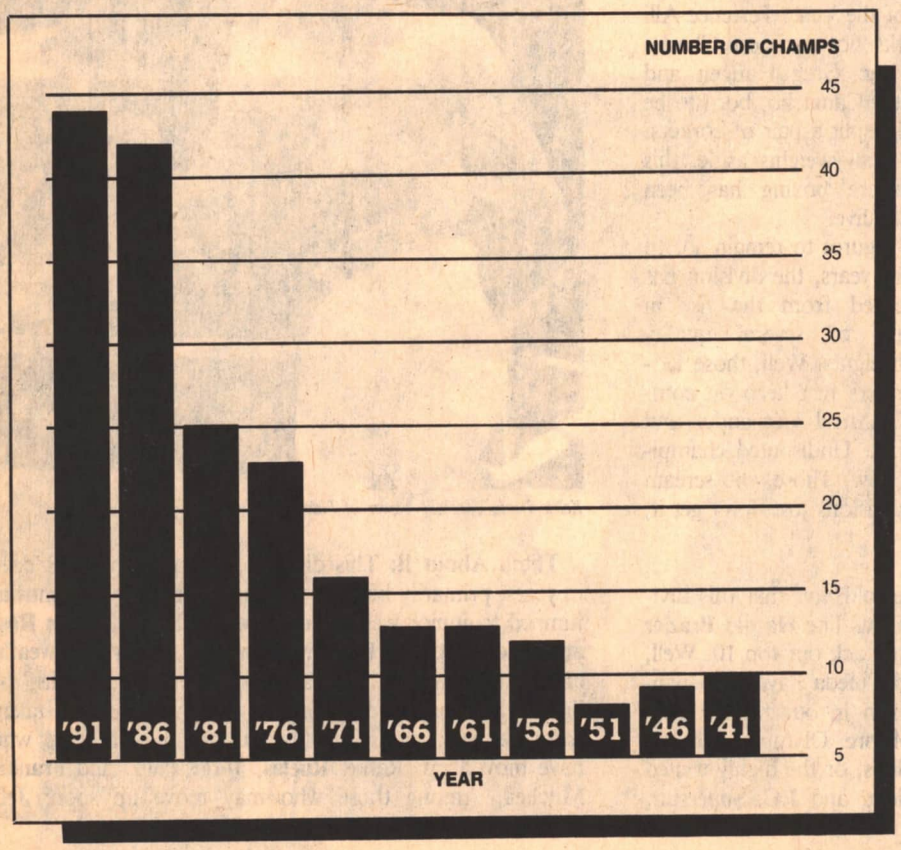
On The Way Down
Steve Cruz

Underrated
Kevin Kelley

Best Fight This Year
Jose Martinez KO 8 Louie Espinoza

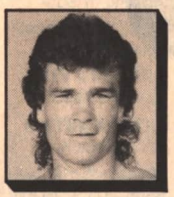
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

A world title ain't what it used to be. Today, boxing has a lengthy roll call of world champions. But it hasn't always been that way. This graph shows the dramatic increase in the number of world champions over the past 50 years. Note: The recording date for each five-year interval is September 1.



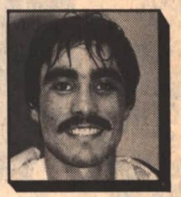
defenses. (The rugged Mexican discovered that boxing is an easy game when you don't have to fight Nelson and Fenech.) The raw Park shocked Esparragoza, who had been among the most established champions in the game. And Medina upset Troy Dorsey, who could have been the high-profile champion this division needs.

Thankfully, there's lots of rising talent, including classy New Yorker Kevin Kelley, Venezuelan powerpuncher Eloy Rojas, smooth Briton Colin McMillan, and underrated Tom Johnson, who is overdue for a title try.



Troy Dorsey

Jesse James Leija



Louie Espinoza

Think About It: When 20-year-old **Manuel Medina** won the IBF title by outpointing **Troy Dorsey**, he became the youngest 126-pound champion in almost 50 years. (In November 1942, **Willie Pep**, who had just turned 20, dethroned **Chalky Wright**.) The youngest feather titlist in history was **Abe Attell**, who was 19 when he decisioned **Johnny Reagan** to capture the vacant crown in September 1903.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

There are no dominant champions here, but boxing's most underrated division remains deep and balanced. The titlists are Luis Mendoza (WBA), Welcome Ncita (IBF), and Daniel Zaragoza (WBC), but they might as well be Tracy Patterson, Pedro Decima, and Jesus Salud, or Kiyoshi Hatanaka, Jemal Hinton, and Raul Perez. At 122 pounds, there's no predicting who'll rise to the top, or who'll stay there. Mendoza, who went 0-1-2 in the three fights preceding his coronation, has made four successful defenses inside of one year. Ncita was given an undeserving split decision over Baby Sugar Rojas. And Zaragoza, thought to be finished after absorbing a beating from Paul Banke in 1990, rebounded to outbrawl Hatanaka and crush Chun Huh.

Best Puncher
Pedro Decima

Best Boxer
Welcome Ncita

Most Protected
Richard Duran

Favorite Opponent
Diego Avila

Matchmaker's Dream
Luis Mendoza-Jesus Salud

Best-Kept Secret
Arcelio Diaz

Deserves A Title Shot
Jesus Salud

TV's Favorite
Tracy Patterson

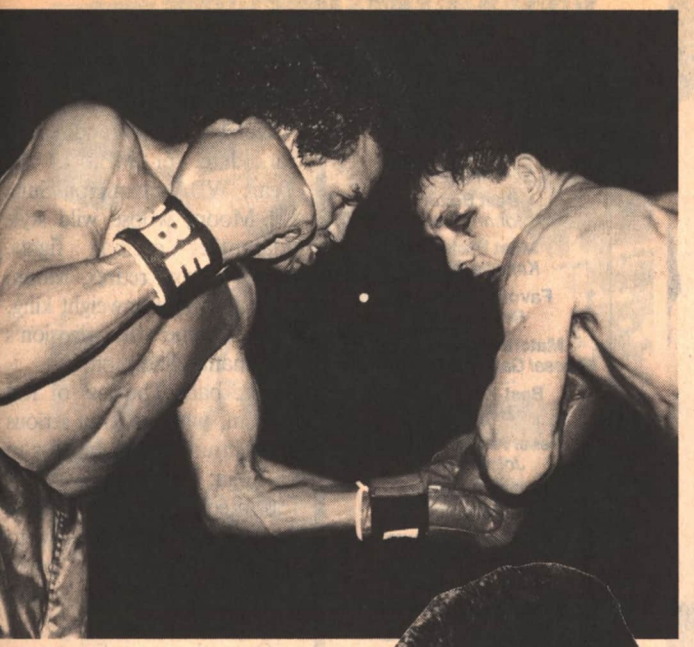
On The Way Down
Hurley Snead

Underrated
Jemal Hinton

Best Fight This Year
Daniel Zaragoza W 12
Kiyoshi Hatanaka

The division's best fighter is the WBO champion, Jesse Benavides. But he's been stopped by Decima, who's been stopped by Hatanaka, who's lost to Zaragoza. You've probably gotten the idea by now.

Think About It: In April, **Carlos Uribe's** decision loss to WBA champion **Luis Mendoza** continued a 50-year-old jinx. Uribe is from Chile, and that country has never produced a world champion. The closest it's ever come: **Arturo Godoy** lost on points in his first bout vs. **Joe Louis** in 1940, and, in the '70s and '80s, flyweight **Martin Vargas** had four world title tries.



Marcos Villasana chops up Paul Hodkinson

Marcos Villasana

Colin McMillan

Jesse Benavides

Junior Jones stalks Charlie Montana

BANTAMWEIGHTS

One year ago, the bantamweights mirrored the light heavyweights: Each division had three strong champions, but for a variety of reasons, unification fights failed to materialize. Today, one of those 118-pound champions, Raul Perez (WBC), is a junior featherweight contender. Another, Luisito Espinosa (WBA), can no longer make weight and will soon vacate or be stripped. Only Orlando Canizales (IBF) remains. He's one of boxing's 10 best fighters, but he has no one to fight.

Best Puncher
Eddie Cook

Best Boxer
Orlando Canizales

Most Protected
Yong Hoon Lee

Favorite Opponent
Eddie Rangel

Matchmaker's Dream
Orlando Canizales-Khaosai Galaxy

Best-Kept Secret
Eliecer Julio

Deserves A Title Shot
Israel Contreras

TV's Favorite
Junior Jones

On The Way Down
Gaby Canizales

Underrated
Javier Leon

Best Fight This Year
Greg Richardson W 12 Victor Rabanales

That should soon change. No other division can match the bantamweights for hot, young talent. The best prospect in Colombia, Eliecer Julio, is a bantam, as is the best prospect in Japan, Joichiro Tatsuyoshi. A pair of Americans, Las Vegan Eddie Cook and New Yorker Junior Jones, may already be the division's hardest hitters, and Korea's Yong Hoon Lee is ready to challenge for a title. The combined record of these five fighters: 77-0-1.

Think About It: When a fighter wins a title in one of the lighter weight classes, how likely is he to move up and capture another crown? Not as likely as you might think. Since September 1, 1981, there have been 18 bantam champs crowned, and not one was a former junior bantam titlist. In comparison, over the same period, the 15 featherweight champs have included only two former junior feather titlists, and the 25 flyweight champs have included five former junior fly titlists.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

The good: WBA champion Khaosai Galaxy, who has made 18 defenses as boxing's longest-reigning titlist; the IBF title fight between champion Robert Quiroga and Kid Akeem, which stands as a candidate for Fight of the Year; WBA champion Sung Kil Moon, whose wild style guarantees exciting fights. After Galaxy retires, Moon, a former bantamweight king, will become the division's dominant champion.

Best Puncher
Khaosai Galaxy

Best Boxer
Johnny Tapia

Most Protected
Katsuya Onizuka

Favorite Opponent
Rey Paciones

Matchmaker's Dream
Khaosai Galaxy-Sung Kil Moon

Best-Kept Secret
Hugo Soto

Deserves A Title Shot
Johnny Tapia

TV's Favorite
Johnny Tapia

On The Way Down
Nana Konadu

Underrated
Thalemsak Sithbaobey

Best Fight This Year
Robert Quiroga W 12 Kid Akeem

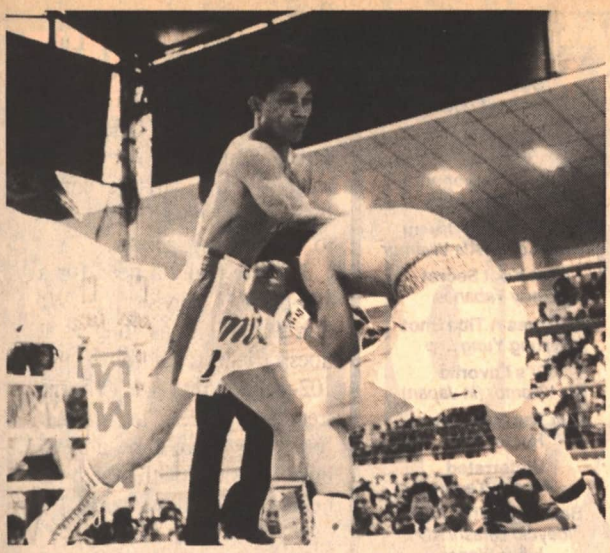
The bad: The loss of Kid Akeem, who suffered serious head injuries after his loss to Quiroga; the inactivity of top-rated contender Johnny Tapia, who has been slow to rebound from drug problems; a lack of depth, and precious-few prospects.

Over the past five years, Thailand's Galaxy and Australia's Jeff Fenech have been the game's most entertaining lighter weight fighters. Too bad they've been invisible in the West. Their provincialism has been boxing's loss.

Greg Richardson

Orlando Canizales

Luisito Espinosa



Khaosai Galaxy kayos Shunichi Nakajima

Best Puncher
Yuri Arbachakov

Best Boxer
Yong Kang Kim

Most Protected
Yun Un Chin

Favorite Opponent
Ric Siadora

Matchmaker's Dream
Dave McAuley-Muangchai Kittikasem

Best-Kept Secret
Alberto Jimenez

Deserves A Title Shot
Ysaias Zamudio

TV's Favorite
Scotty Olson

On The Way Down
Jesus Rojas

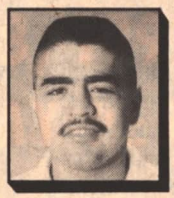
Underrated
Rodolfo Blanco

Best Fight This Year
Muangchai Kittikasem KO 12 Jung Koo Chang

Think About It: In which division does boxing become a game dominated by non-Americans? Try this one. The 115-pound class is 11 years old. It's had 18 different world champions and 91 world title fights. There has been only one American titlist (reigning IBF king **Robert Quiroga**), and two American challengers (**Willie "Birdlegs" Jensen** and **Mike Phelps**). An oddity: The WBC top 30 (as of July 1991) includes only one American, **Johnny Tapia**, who happens to be rated first.

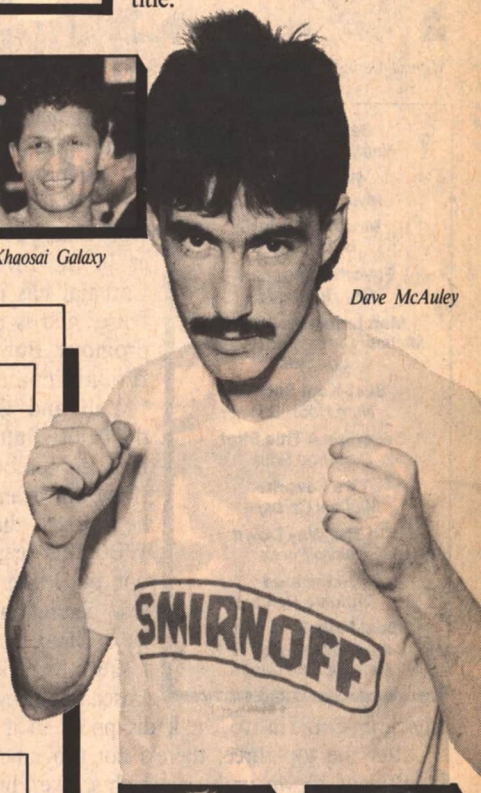
Kittikasem (WBC) or boxer Yong Kang Kim (WBA). And don't expect any help from below, either. WBA 108-pound champion Myung Woo Yuh, one of boxing's best, has shown no desire to move up, and his IBF counterpart, Michael Carbajal, needs a Thanksgiving dinner and two tries at leftovers to bulk up to 112 pounds.

If you're going to zero in on one prospect, forget about Canada's Scotty Olson, a big puncher with a porous defense. Instead, watch Yuri Arbachakov, who could become the first Russian to fight for a world title.

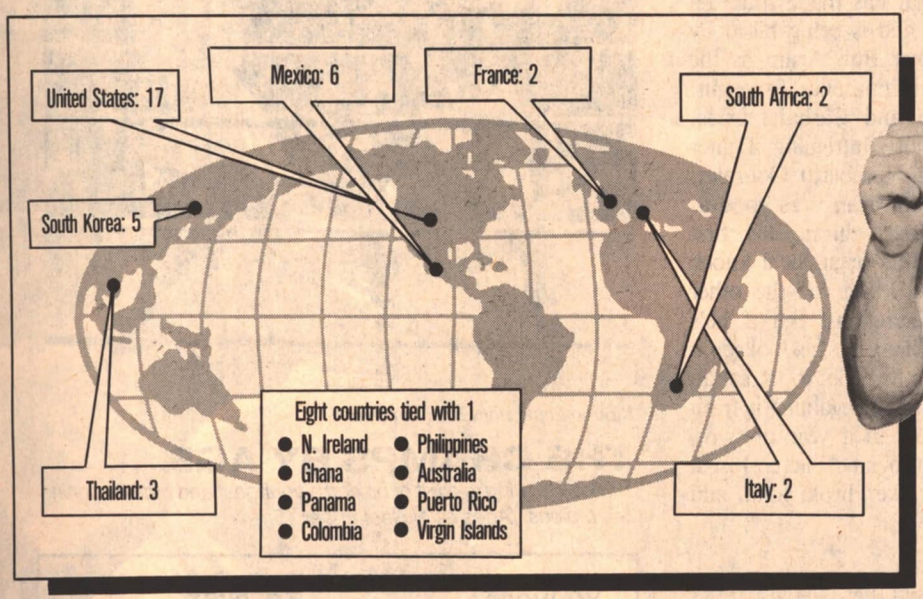


Robert Quiroga

Khaosai Galaxy

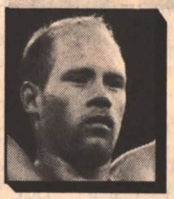


Dave McAuley



THE CHAMPS BY COUNTRIES

It's no surprise that the United States has produced the most current world champions. A breakdown of boxing's 45 world champions by countries (as of September 15).



Scotty Olson

Muangchai Kittikasem

FLYWEIGHTS

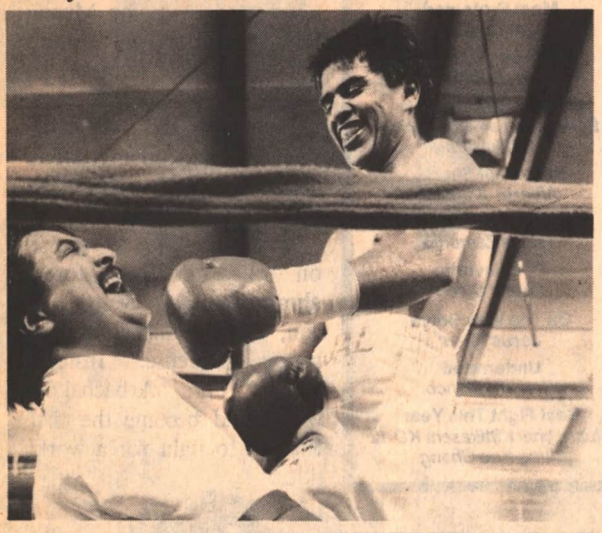
Over the past six years, only the junior featherweights have had more champions than the 112-pounders. A division once distinguished by the extended title reigns of Pascual Perez, Miguel Canto, and Santos Laciar now depends on IBF champion Dave McAuley for stability. McAuley has made five successful defenses despite a wildly unpredictable chin. At least no one can call him dull.

Don't expect lengthy reigns from puncher Muangchai

Think About It: Stand-up guys? In what has to be the oddest statistic in boxing, the three reigning world champions have suffered a combined 27 knockdowns! The IBF's **Dave McAuley** has been down an extraordinary 17 times in 22 fights. The WBC's **Muanghchai Kittikasem** has been felled at least six times (three each by **Michael Carbajal** and **Jung Koo Chang**). And the WBA's **Yong Kang Kim** has dropped at least four times (twice by **Khaosai Galaxy** and once each by **Elvis Alvarez** and **Yul Woo Lee**).

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

No one ever said life was fair. WBA champion Myung Woo Yuh is still "Yuh Who?" to most fans. But Michael Carbajal established himself as an American television



Michael Carbajal with brother/trainer Danny

Best Puncher
Humberto Gonzalez
Best Boxer
Myung Woo Yuh
Most Protected
Hiroki Ioka
Favorite Opponent
Rey Hernandez
Matchmaker's Dream
Michael Carbajal-Humberto Gonzalez
Best-Kept Secret
Nam Hoon Cha
Deserves A Title Shot
Domingo Sosa
TV's Favorite
Michael Carbajal
On The Way Down
Isidro Perez
Underrated
Antonio Perez
Best Fight This Year
Humberto Gonzalez W 12 Melchor Cob Castro

favorite before he even turned pro. Yuh has made 17 defenses and rates with Yoko Gushiken and Jung Koo Chang as the best fighter in the division's history. Carbajal has made four defenses and is being billed by promoter Bob Arum as the first million-dollar flyweight.

Yuh and Carbajal aside, the most intriguing fighter here is Humberto Gonzalez. If the Mexican is as good as he looked during his first WBC title reign, he'll knock out out either of the other two champions. But if he's as ordinary as he looked in losing the title to Rolando Pascua and regaining it from Melchor Cob Castro, he'll disappear in a year or two.

After the top three, there's not too much here. Just a handful of blown up strawweights, like Hiroki Ioka, and aging veterans, like Hector Patri.

Think About It: There's no arguing that reigning WBA champ **Myung Woo Yuh** and former WBC titlist **Jung Koo Chang** are two of the greatest 108-pounders in the division's 16-year history. But we wouldn't exactly call them road warriors. Chang and Yuh have made 31 of their combined 32 defenses in their native South Korea. (In June 1988, Chang faced **Hideyuki Ohashi** in Japan.) In fact, Yuh has *never* fought outside of Korea, and the Ohashi bout was Chang's only appearance away from home.

STRAWWEIGHTS

The division's best, Mexico's Ricardo Lopez (WBC), is a marvelous little fighter. Filipino prospect Ala Villamor, Thai contender Chana Porpaoin, and former champion Bong Jun Kim are world-class boxers. Far-Lan Lukmingkwan (IBF) is a clever southpaw, and Hi Yong Choi (WBA) is quick and skilled. But these *are* strawweights, and, to be kind, they don't mean very much to very many people.

Best Puncher
Ricardo Lopez
Best Boxer
Ricardo Lopez
Most Protected
Rocky Lim
Favorite Opponent
Pretty Boy Lucas
Matchmaker's Dream
Ricardo Lopez-Ala Villamor
Best-Kept Secret
Andy Tabanas
Deserves A Title Shot
Kyung Yung Lee
TV's Favorite
Ala Villamor (in Japan)
On The Way Down
Hector Patri
Underrated
Alfredo Xeque
Best Fight This Year
Hideyuki Ohashi KO 7 Julius Planas

Is there really a need for a 105-pound division? We don't mind it, as long as it doesn't lead to the birth of a 102-pound division. If the trend continues, in another few years there'll be a newborn division, with weigh-ins held at maternity wards.

Think About It: Evidence for those who believe that the lighter weight fighters can't match the big boys for power: Since the inception of boxing's lightest (105 pounds) division in June 1987, there have been 32 strawweight title fights. Only 13, or 41 percent, have ended via kayo. In comparison, of the last 32 welter title fights, 22, or 69 percent, have ended via kayo. ■

Ricardo Lopez stops Hideyuki Ohashi

THE CHAMPS BY AGE

The following is a list of boxing's youngest and oldest reigning champions. (Ages as of September 15.)

YOUNGEST	OLDEST
Manuel Medina-20	Mike McCallum-34
Robert Quiroga-21	Greg Richardson-34
Muangchai Kittikasem-22	Gianfranco Rosi-34
James Toney-23	Azumah Nelson-33
Darrin Van Horn-23	Thomas Hearns-32
Far-Lan Lukmingkwan-23	James Warring-32
Michael Carbajal-23	Khaosai Galaxy-32
Yung Kyun Park-24	Daniel Zaragoza-31
Luisito Espinosa-24	Anaclet Wamba-31
Terry Norris-24	Marcos Villasana-31

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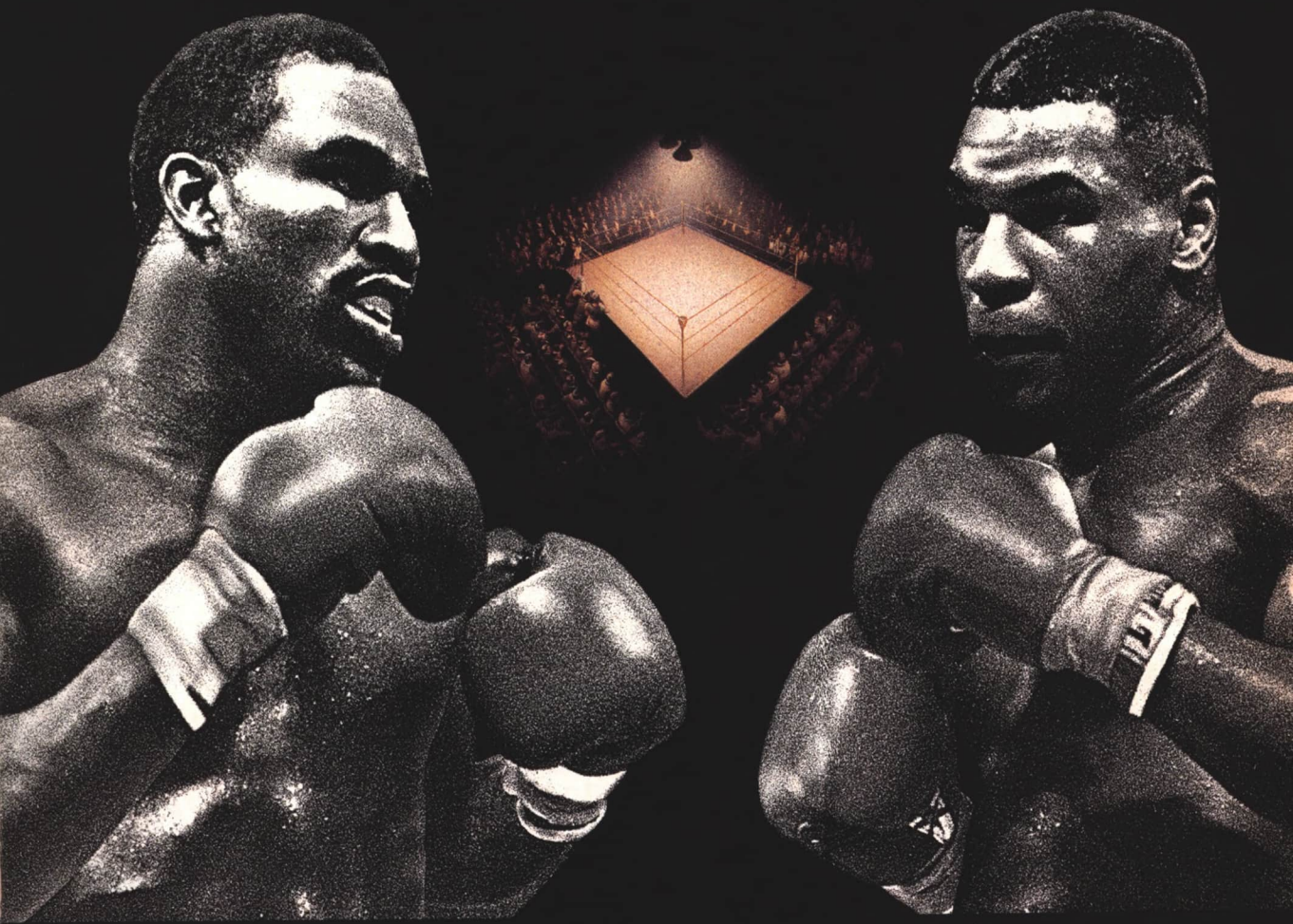

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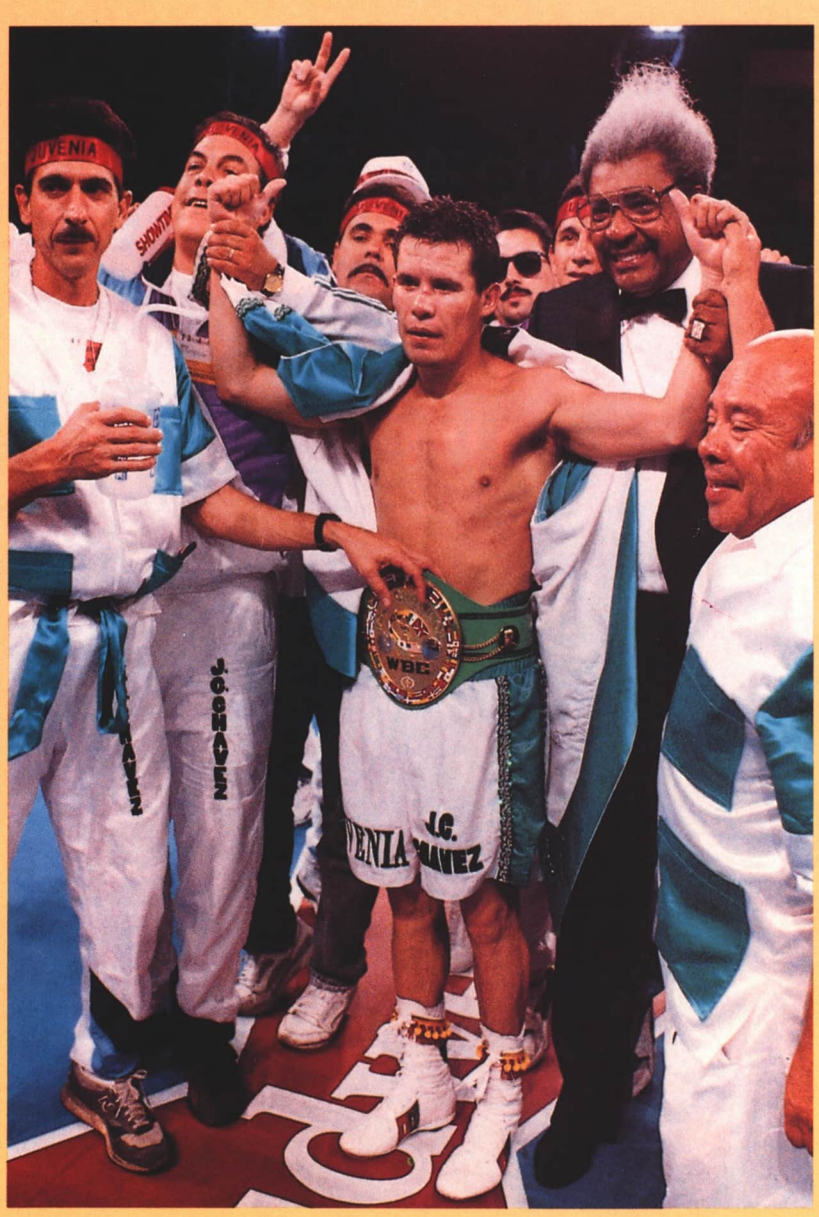
A WARNING TO BOXING

DON'T WASTE JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ' LAST GOOD YEARS



By Joseph C. Tintle

Julio Cesar Chavez is a ringmaster in the truest sense of the word. Undefeated in 76 professional fights, he's won world titles in three weight divisions. And because his victories have come against quality opponents like Juan LaPorte, Ruben Castillo, Rocky Lockridge, Edwin Rosario, Jose Luis Ramirez, and Meldrick Taylor, Chavez is regarded by most, including *The Ring*, as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

But a review of the WBC super lightweight champion's recent opponents—as selected by promoter Don King—clearly reveals a severe dropoff in the level of competition since Chavez fought so magnificently against Taylor in March 1990.

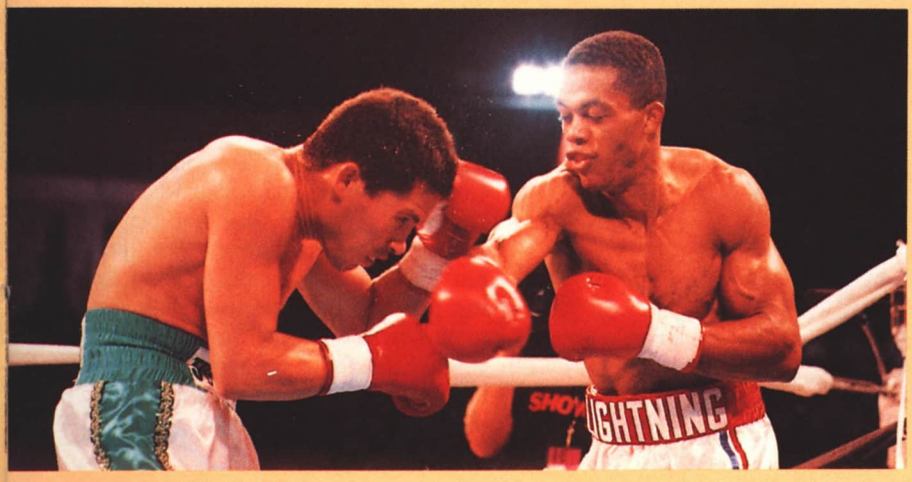
Opponents like Razor Akney Addo, Russell Mosley, Rocky Balboa, Kyung Duk Ahn, John Duplessis, Tommy

Small, and Lonnie Smith hardly comprise a *Who's Who In Boxing*. All of them, with the exception of Smith, who unabashedly ran during his decision loss to Chavez in September, folded by the fourth round. Each victim helped fatten Chavez' record, but the seven consecutive wins have had little significance.

Chavez, who will be 30 in July, realizes the last 20 months have been largely wasted, and there aren't that many good years ahead. In an effort to make the most of what time remains, he'd like to challenge the best of the welterweights.

"This is dangerous territory," King said of the 147-pounders. "But we'll look around and see if there's anyone

Among Chavez' potential opponents: undisputed lightweight king Pernell Whitaker, outpointing Poli Diaz (above), and WBA welterweight king Meldrick Taylor, taking the title from Aaron Davis (right). Like Chavez, both Whitaker and Taylor are seeking a higher quality of opposition. Chavez' most recent opposition, veteran Lonnie Smith (below), provided little lightning.



left at 140. After that, he'll move up to 147."

In recent years, King has concentrated most of his promotional efforts on former undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, while shortchanging Chavez. Tyson's fights, of course, have generated millions upon millions of dollars. But his present legal imbroglio has made King realize that he'd better satisfy Chavez, or, by 1992, he could potentially lose his two most highly prized fighters.

If King intends to finally jump start Chavez' career, he won't have to look

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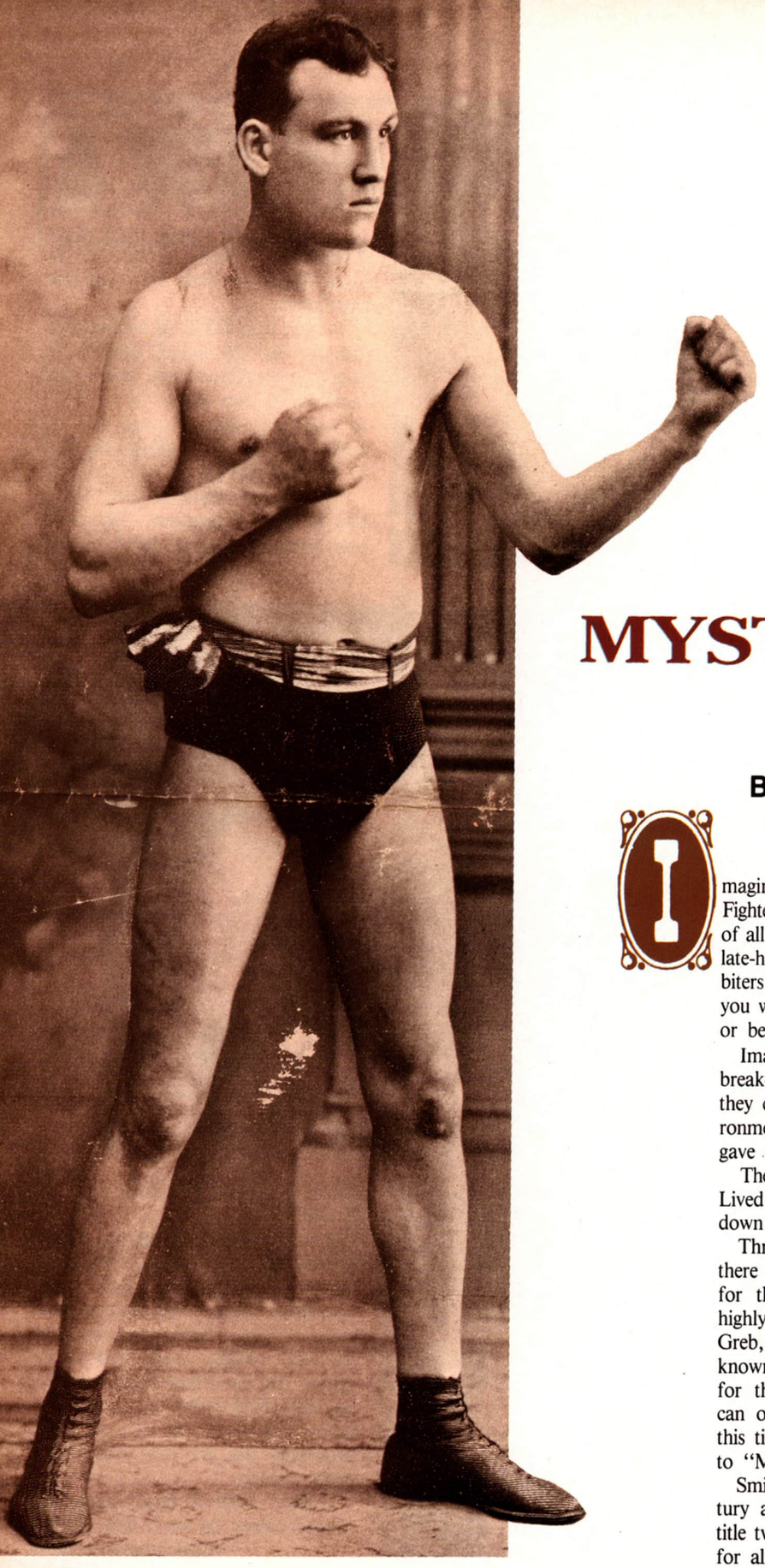
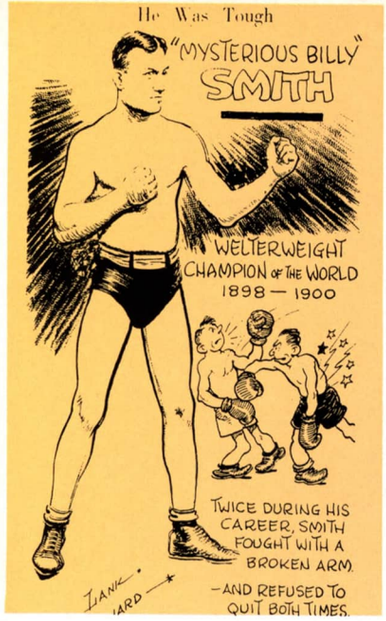
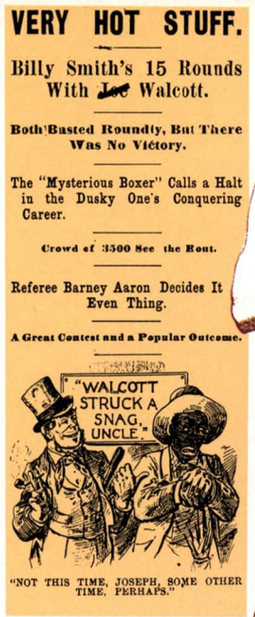
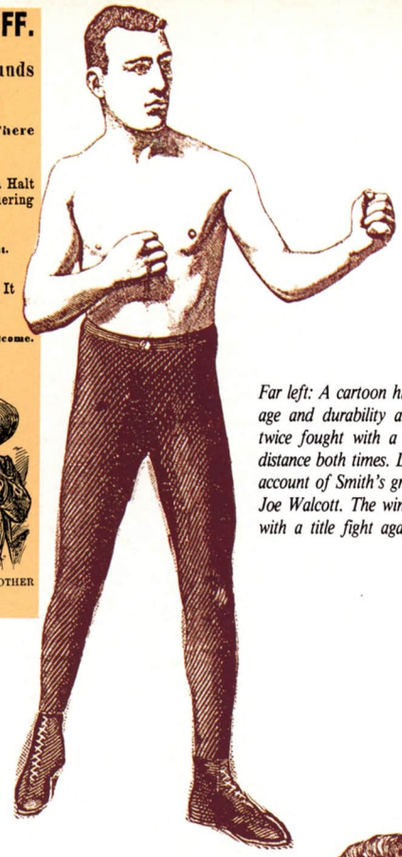


MYSTERIOUS BILLY SMITH:







Far left: A cartoon highlighting Smith's courage and durability and proclaiming that he twice fought with a broken arm, going the distance both times. Left: An 1895 newspaper account of Smith's great fight in Boston with Joe Walcott. The winner was to be rewarded with a title fight against Tommy Ryan.

By Patrick J. Leonard
(Edited by Roger Mooney)

Imagine being labeled The Dirtiest Fighter Who Ever Lived. Imagine if, of all the rabbit-punchers, low-blowers, late-hitters, foot-stompers, and head-biters ever to climb through the ropes, you were considered to be the worst—or best.

Imagine if, when the thugs and rule-breakers and bad guys got together, they called you boss. Imagine if environmentalists complained that you gave dirt a bad name.

The Dirtiest Fighter Who Ever Lived. That's quite a moniker to live down to.

Through boxing's colorful history, there have been plenty of contenders for the crown. Two of those most highly rated, Fritzie Zivic and Harry Greb, were world champions who were known as much for their foul play as for their accomplishments. But there can only be one champion. And for this title, the unanimous decision goes to "Mysterious" Billy Smith.

Smith fought at the turn of the century and held the world welterweight title twice. But he's held his *other* title for almost 100 years.

THE DIRTIEST FIGHTER OF ALL-TIME

"Some of the sportswriters called me a *vicious* fighter and a *dirty* fighter," Smith said several months before his death in 1937. "But all of them said I was a fighter from bell to bell. And that's all I cared about. I figure the ring was a place to fight and not take dancing lessons."

Unless they were lessons for slam dancing.

Those who saw him fight said the 5'8½" Smith had all the tools of a great champion. He was quite quick and had a tremendous love for combat. He was effective with both fists. And he could take a punch and come back for more.

Veteran boxing writer George Tickell once referred to Smith as being "as rough and tough a specimen of leather-flaying gladiator as ever stood toe to toe with an opponent and slugged it out to a battering finish."

With his low brow, thick neck, broad shoulders, square jaw, and muscular body, Smith was a fighting machine. Yet he had a habit of resorting to tactics not found in any rulebook.

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A classic woodcut shows Smith in May 1893, soon after he defended the welterweight title against tough Australian challenger Tom Williams. Smith scored a second-round kayo and earned a hefty $4,500.

JOE LOUIS

Joseph Louis Barrow
Heavyweight Champion Of The World
Title Reign: 1937-1949

The RING

MOVIN' ON UP:

WHEN BOXING'S CHAMPS RISE IN WEIGHT

By Steve Farhood

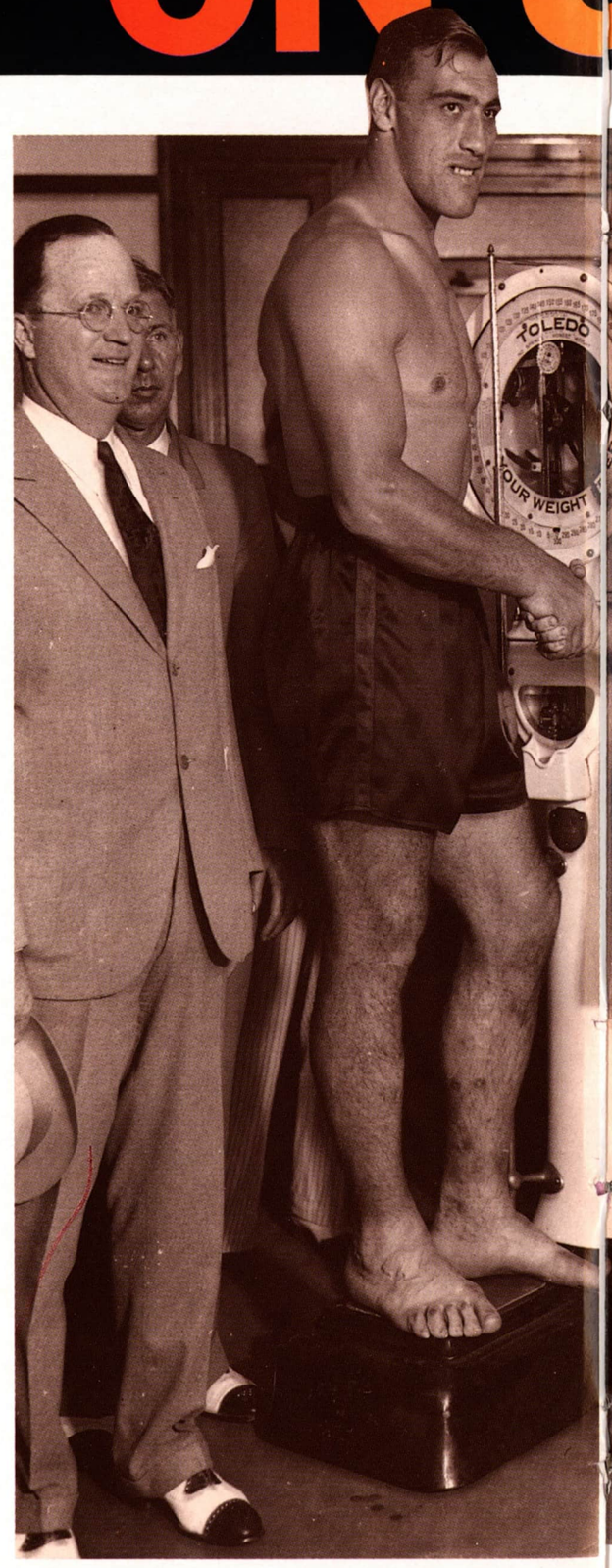
Got no title? Got no future? Scared they'll take away your license if you lose another fight? No problem. Just gain a few pounds and start over.

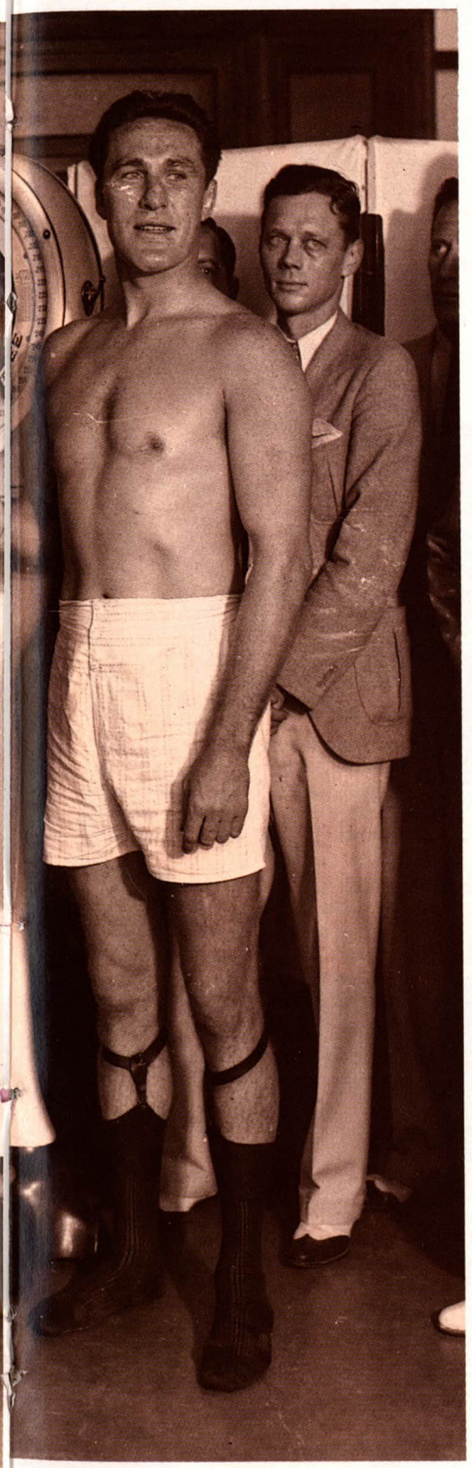
Weak from crash dieting? Tired of running in a rubber suit? Dream about hot fudge sundaes while baking in the sauna? There's an easy answer: Don't fight the fight any longer. Tell the alphabet boys they can start rating you one division higher.

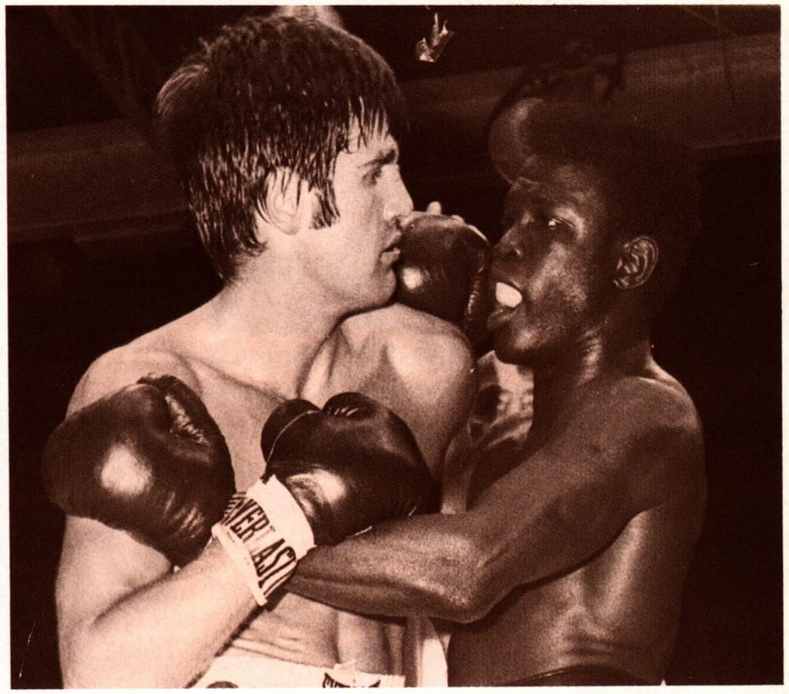
The best in your weight class? No one to fight? Crave the big bucks that only the big boys are making? Don't worry about it. Just vacate your title and move up in weight. They might even guarantee you a title try.

For the first 75 years of the modern boxing era, it was special when a world champion jumped divisions and won a second title. There were only eight weight classes, and a rise was often a dangerous move. Jake LaMotta consistently suffered to make 160 pounds. But what was his alternative? Given his limited height and reach, a jump to 175 was unrealistic. Of course, had there been a super middleweight division for LaMotta to conquer, he might never have had to dull his senses when the dessert cart was brought to his table.

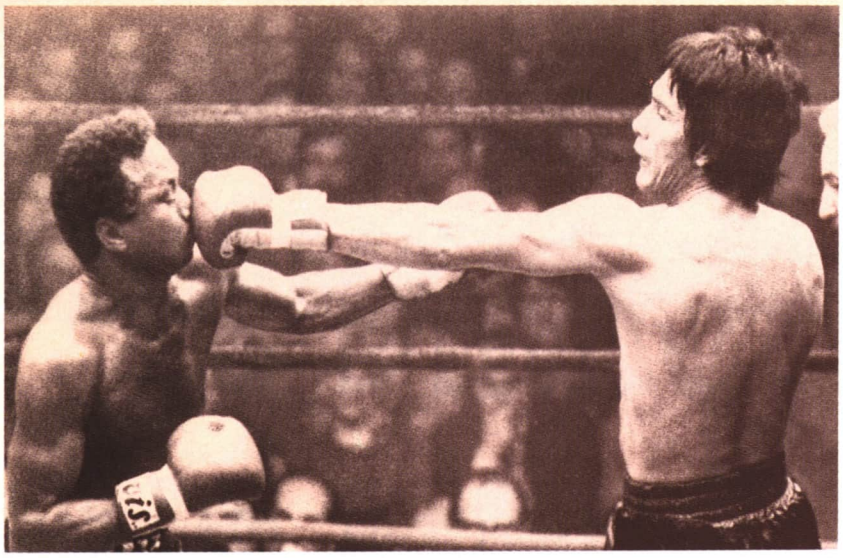
Today, there are 17 weight classes, and, as a result, almost all of the world's best fighters are two- or three-division champions. The stars—Sugar Ray Leonard, Julio Cesar Chavez, Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran, Jeff Fenech, Wilfred Benitez, Wilfredo Gomez, Evander Holyfield, Michael Spinks, Alexis Arguello—have all collected





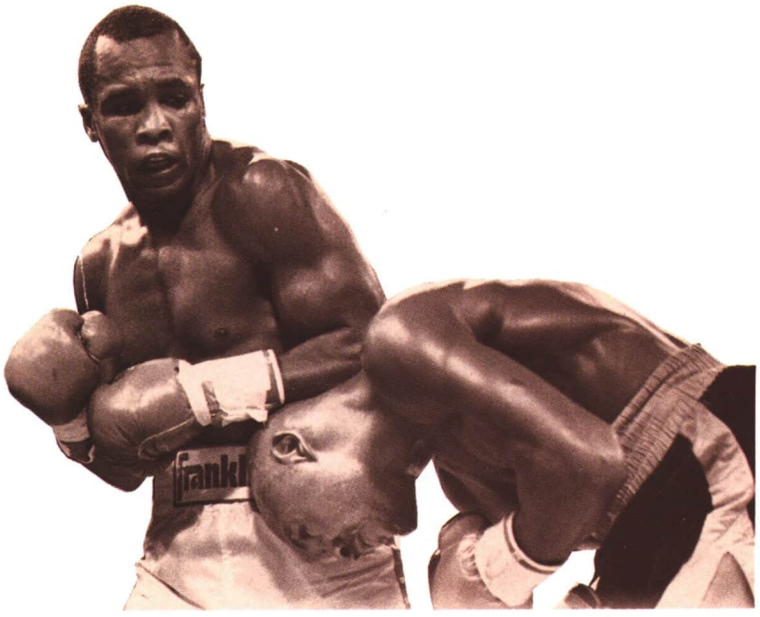


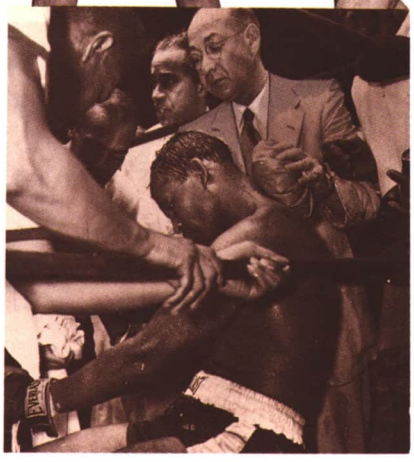
When former light heavyweight champion Tommy Loughran moved up to challenge heavyweight king Primo Carnera in March 1934 (left), he moved way up. Carnera, who won a 15-round decision, scaled 270, or 86 pounds more than Loughran. Former welterweight champion Emile Griffith regains the middleweight title by outpointing Nino Benvenuti in September 1967 (above). In middleweight title fights, Griffith rarely scaled more than 154.



A pair of great welters had mixed success in moving up. Jose Napoles was overwhelmed in seven rounds by legendary middleweight king Carlos Monzon in February 1974 (above). A comebacking Sugar Ray Leonard, however, scored an upset 12-round decision over 160-pound titlist Marvelous Marvin Hagler in April 1987 (below).

When reigning featherweight champion Henry Armstrong (left) squared off against welterweight king Barney Ross in May 1938, he scaled only 133½. Armstrong won a unanimous 15-round decision.

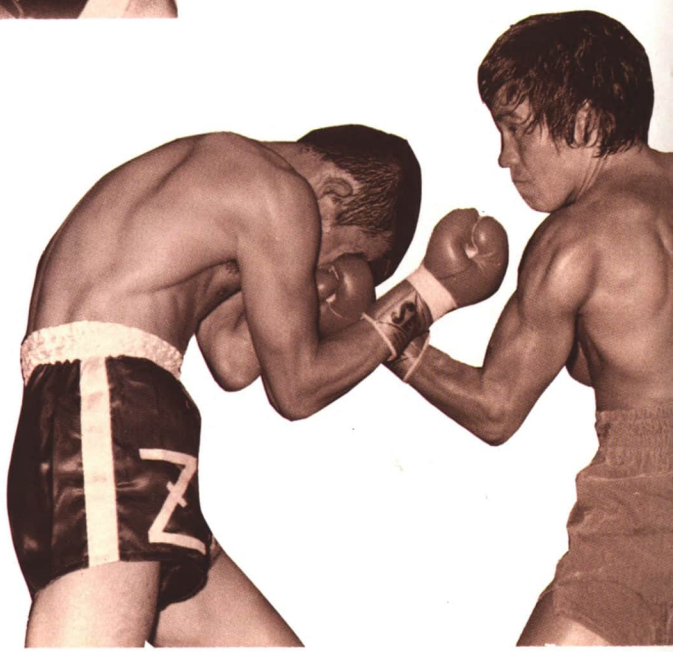


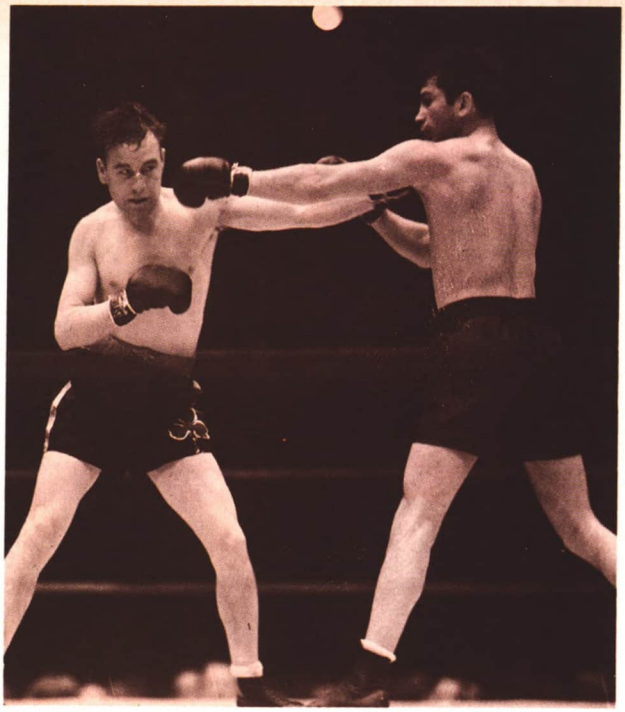


In June 1952, Sugar Ray Robinson spotted 175-pound king Joey Maxim 15½ pounds. He was ahead when stopped by heat exhaustion (above). Former bantam champion Ruben Olivares wins the feather crown by stopping Zensuke Utagawa in July 1974 (below).

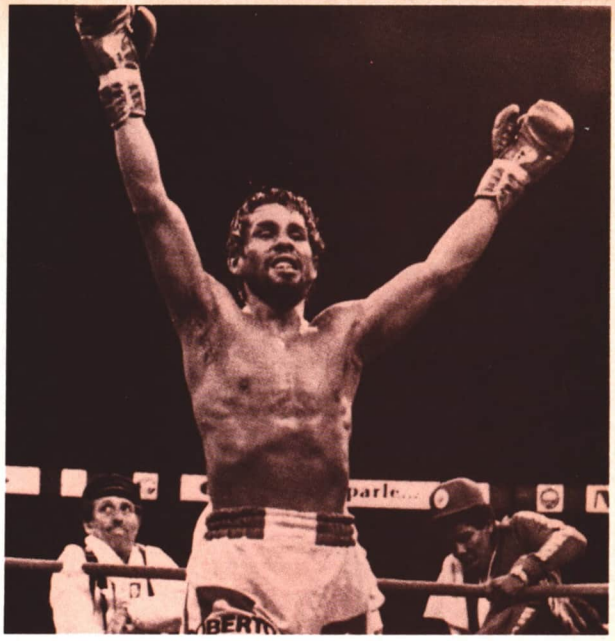
title belts in two divisions or more. Even champions of relatively average ability—Daniel Zaragoza, Muangchai Kittikasem, Bobby Czyz—have captured crowns in more than one class. The only fighters without options are heavyweights. Unlike their smaller peers, they have nowhere to go but down.

Throughout history, champions have risen in weight for one reason: money. Some added to their reputations, while others grossly misjudged their ability to add weight and maintain effectiveness. There has been no formula for success. Henry Armstrong simultaneously held the featherweight, lightweight, and welterweight titles, and, boxing at only 142 pounds, almost added the middleweight crown. Former junior lightweight cham-

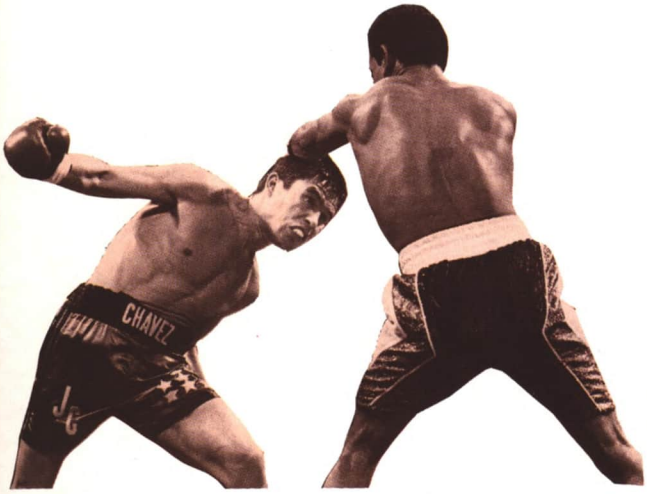


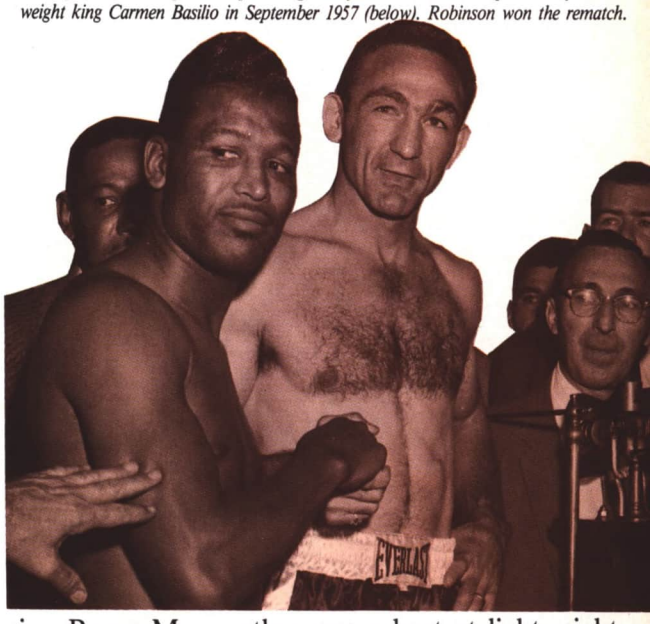


Former 135-pound champ Barney Ross (right) regains the welterweight title by edging Jimmy McLarnin in May 1935. Ross was also the reigning junior welter king.

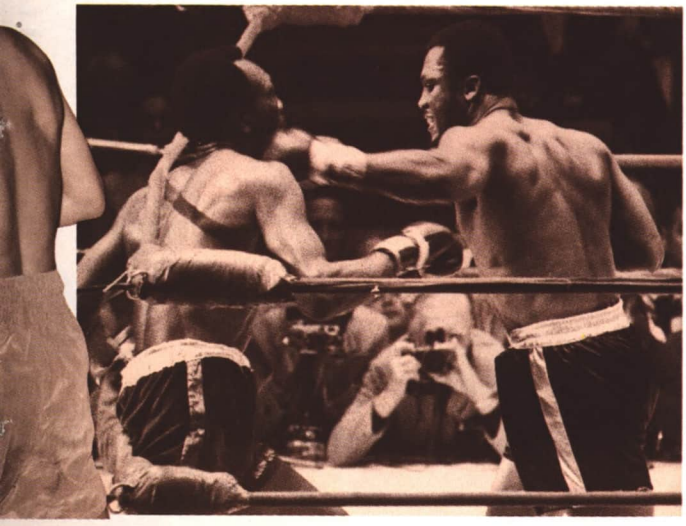


Roberto Duran, shown after whipping 147-pound champion Ray Leonard in June 1980 (above), won titles at lightweight, welterweight, junior middleweight, and middleweight. Middleweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson was outpointed by welterweight king Carmen Basilio in September 1957 (below). Robinson won the rematch.





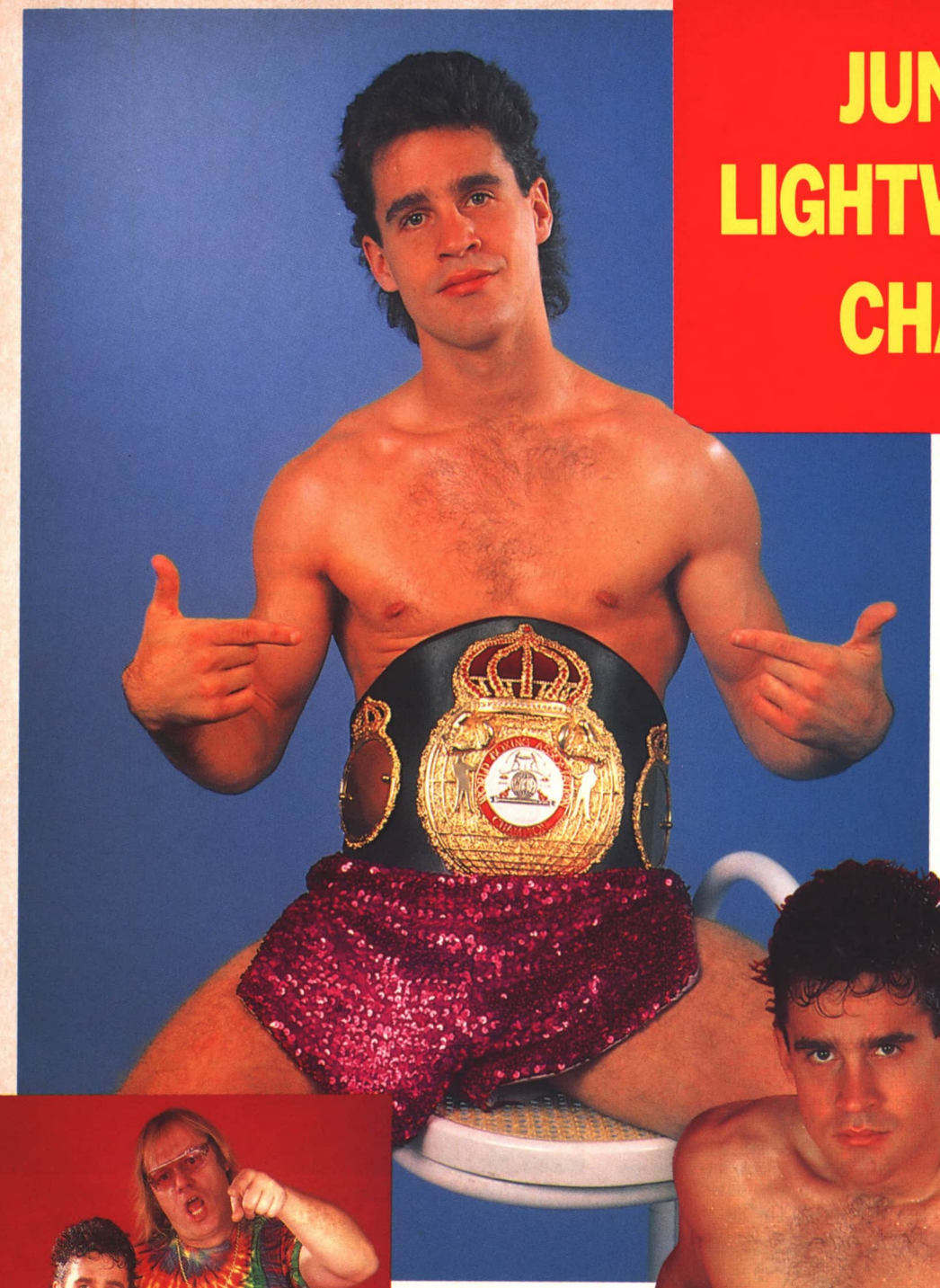
Triple-crown champion Julio Cesar Chavez won his second title by stopping lightweight king Edwin Rosario in November 1987 (above). Dominant light heavyweight champion Bob Foster wasn't as successful in moving up. In November 1970, he was kayoed by heavyweight titlist Joe Frazier in the second round (below).



pion Roger Mayweather was a bust at lightweight, but rose once more and became a world champion at junior welterweight. Carlos Zarate and Jose Napoles, dominant champions at bantamweight and welterweight, respectively, were kayoed in their attempts to add second titles. Eusebio Pedroza, Khaosai Galaxy, and Jeff Chandler never jumped at all, even with second titles only three or four pounds away.

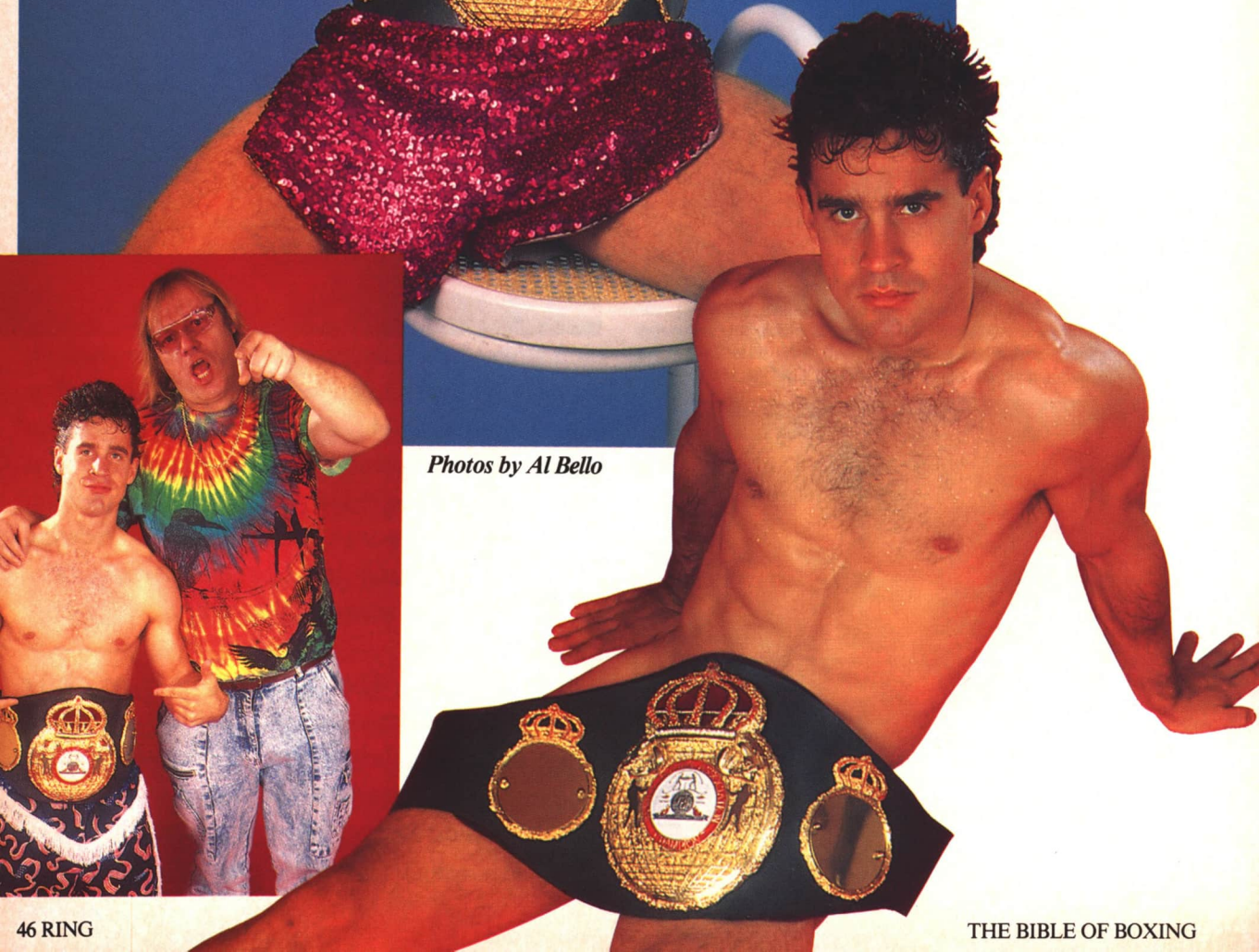
In this feature, *The Ring* examines some of the champions who have jumped divisions in an attempt to add to their already impressive resumes. Rising in weight is a boxing tradition, and a tradition that has never been more alive than it is today. ■

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP

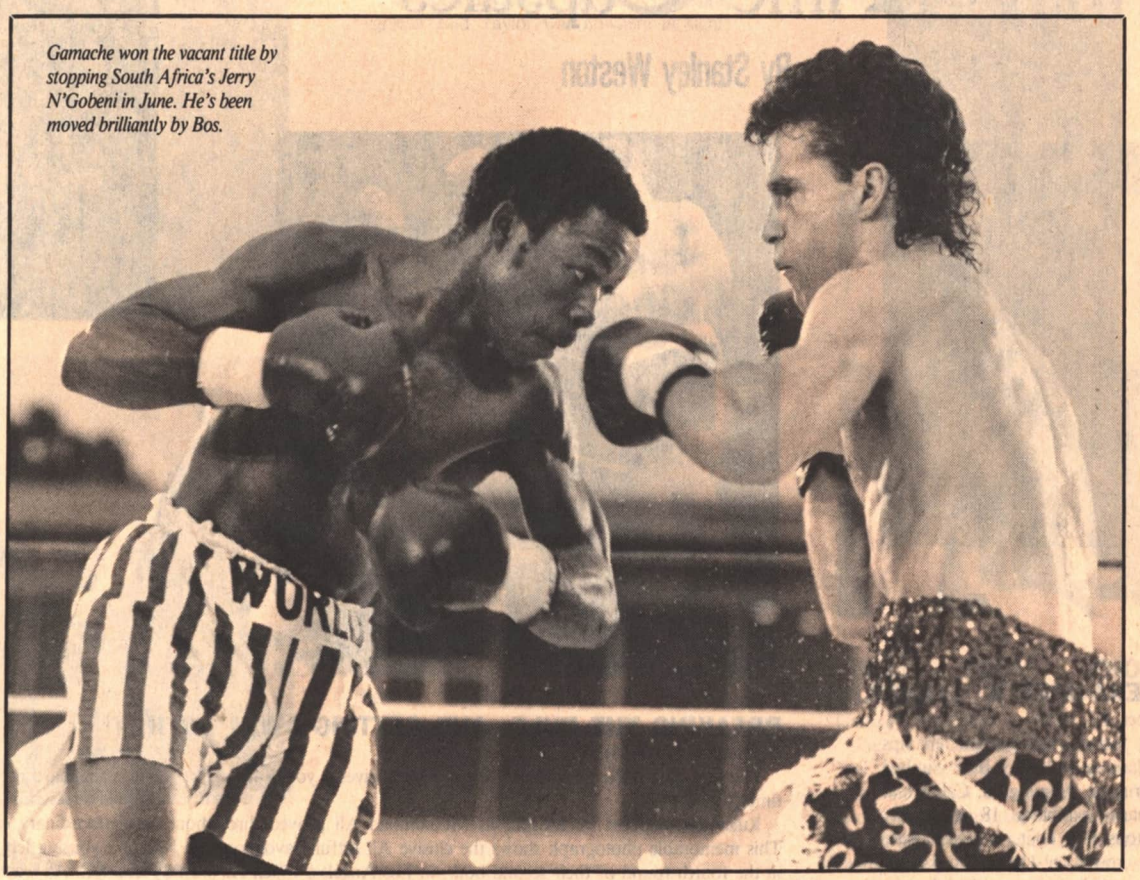


Photos by Al Bello

During a photo shoot at ***The Ring****, WBA junior lightweight champion Joey Gamache showed off his belt (left) and almost a lot more (below). Led by a colorful manager like Johnny Bos (bottom left), Gamache can't help but be a screwball.*



JOEY GAMACHE:



Gamache won the vacant title by stopping South Africa's Jerry N'Gobeni in June. He's been moved brilliantly by Bos.

THE ROCKY OF COCKY

"My father says, 'You've had enough fun to last a lifetime.' I tell him, 'No, I plan on having a whole lot more.' "—Joey Gamache

By Jeff Ryan

In making himself into the successful screwball that he is today, Joey Gamache appears to have studied at the tassled and sequined feet of the masters. His personal library no doubt contains the fall fashion catalogue of designer Jorge Paez, Hector Camacho's *The Bonfire Of My Vanity,* the best-selling *Pazienza's Famous Quotations,* and romance novelist Tony Lopez' finest work to date, *Summer Of 42 Babes Who Said Yes.*

And yet the quick-fisted, quick-witted WBA junior lightweight titlist is very much his own maniac. The Rocky of Cocky has a certain appeal about him that is completely unique. A Gamache panache.

He's got a smile that opens doors, a style that rarely bores, and a guile that results in plenty of late-night scores. In an age when too many pro athletes whose biggest problem in life is sweat-sock chafe are complaining about the cruelties of fate, the 25-year-old Gamache is in an enviable position and he knows it. The Harley he drives could be a metaphor for his life. When you've got miles of open highway ahead of you and a stiff wind at your back, you're not going to gripe about your gas mileage.

Gamache hails from Maine, one of the last places boxing would ever think to look for a potential star. Most outsiders still think that if you mention ring rust up there, the locals start painting the turnbuckle posts. He's been champion only since June, and hasn't appeared on commercial TV as a pro, but he's got enough attitude to make you think he's already given his Hall of Fame speech and posed for his bust.

"I'm cocky, yeah, I always have been," Gamache acknowledges. "It's 'cause I believe in myself so much. I'm intelligent, marketable, I look good, and I've got curly hair. This is the only

(Continued on page 55)

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

CARNERA-BAER II

(September 10, 1952)

When former heavyweight champs Primo Carnera and Max Baer climbed into the ring at Wilmington, California, for a charity exhibition 18 years after their riotous title bout, in which Baer won the crown via 11th-round knockout, the crowd was astonished by the physical disparity.

The 46-year-old Carnera looked like he could easily go 10 fast rounds, while the 43-year-old Baer huffed and puffed while climbing up the ring steps. After four rounds, which the huge, magnificently conditioned Italian easily dominated, the referee lifted the arms of the two old tigers and called it a draw.

Before leaving the ring, Maxie gave Primo a hug and whispered in his ear, "I'm glad this one wasn't for the title."

BREAKING THE RULE—AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT!

(September 10, 1973)

The very first order any trainer worth his salt gives a young hopeful: "Keep your guard up at all times!"

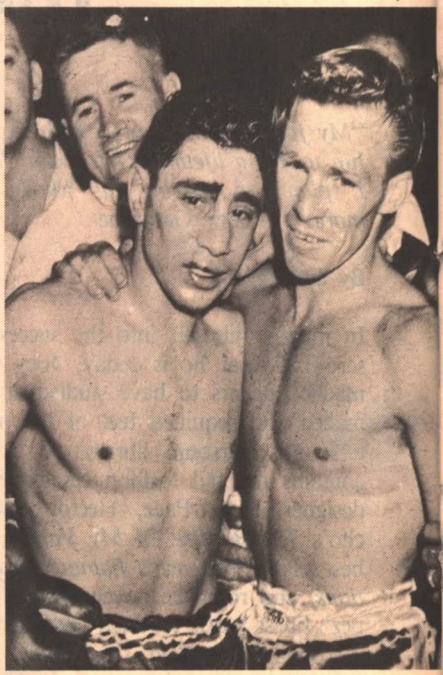
Rules are made to be broken, as Muhammad Ali proved throughout his extraordinary career. This memorable photograph shows the elusive Ali artfully avoiding Ken Norton's rousing left hook in the fourth round of their second bout, in Los Angeles, which Ali won by decision. Ali was quick enough to dodge punches, and his style was copied by hundreds of young fighters. Most, however, discovered that they didn't have the reflexes to do what "The Greatest" did.

KID DYNAMITE EXPLODES

(November 15, 1952)

Undefeated Australian bantamweight Jimmy Carruthers (right) consoles previously undefeated, and still groggy, Vic Toweel after Dynamite Jim's first-round, title-winning knockout victory in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Carruthers looked absolutely unbeatable as he rendered the bewildered Toweel totally helpless seconds after the opening bell, ripping open his eyebrow and tearing his upper lip. The whole thing lasted only 2:19, but those lucky enough to have been in attendance will never forget the thrill of seeing a perfect fighting machine in action.



JOE, WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA

(January 31, 1935)

Former world bantamweight champion Bud Taylor (right), acting as official greeter for both the State of California and the boxing fraternity, welcomes 20-year-old heavyweight sensation Joe Louis at the Los Angeles railroad station.

In the eight months since turning pro, the undefeated Louis had racked up 11 knockouts and three decisions. But his reputation had already spread around the world. His 15th opponent was scheduled to be master boxer Lee Ramage, in Ramage's hometown of L.A.

But all of Lee's superb skills were no match for the murderous-punching Louis, who scored a second-round kayo for consecutive victory number 15.

The next day, when Joe and his entourage boarded the train for the trip home to Detroit, official greeter Bud Taylor was nowhere in sight.

FORMER CHAMPS, FORMER SAILORS

(December 31, 1948)

Former heavyweight champ Jack Dempsey wishes former lightweight king Lou Ambers "Good luck, Kid," as Lou is about to parade his unsaddled horse at the New Year's Day Salad Bowl game festivities in Phoenix.

Jack and Lou had something else in common besides being former world champs: Both served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II, and both were equally as proud of their military records as their ring records.

When they sat side by side at dinner later that day, the talk was not about left hooks, training camps, or world championships, but of boot camps, troop ships, and service chow.

FOUL! FOUL! ENOUGH ALREADY!

(January 20, 1936)

French middleweight champion Marcel Thil was one helluva fighter. In his 12-year career he earned an array of titles: French middleweight, European middleweight, European light heavyweight, and middleweight championship of the world. Because of his premature balding, Marcel looked a lot older than he was. But despite his ancient appearance, he became the darling of France during the hapless '30s.

Thil had a variety of talents, not the least of which was acting. Commented a British journalist after viewing Thil's 1936 disqualification victory over American Lou Brouillard in Paris, "This balding Frenchman is quite a remarkable person. His skills transcend boxing. I understand he is a master chef and highly respected connoisseur of medieval art. And judging from what I have witnessed tonight, he could well qualify for one of those Hollywood Academy Awards."

Thirteen months after meeting Brouillard, Thil met him in a rematch, again in Paris. The result was the same. After absorbing a barrage of body blows by the aggressive challenger in the sixth round, Thil staggered to his corner, stomped down on the stool (shown in this picture), and stuttered, in a kind of Morse code French, "I will not continue. I have been fouled."

The referee waved his hand across Marcel's blinking eyeballs and proclaimed, "A foul has been committed. Marcel Thil is the winner and still middleweight champion of the world."

Next week: Macbeth.

THE CRYSTAL BALL SAYS . . .

(July 9, 1952)

It took photographers half an hour to get just the right lighting effect for this publicity shot of Seattle heavyweight contender Harry Matthews and his glib manager, Jack Hurley. The idea was to add some mystique to Harry's upcoming July 28 battle with Rocky Marciano. The winner, promised the promoters, would get a title shot at champion Jersey Joe Walcott.

"What do you see in the ball, Harry?" asked a reporter.

Before Matthews could offer a reply, Hurley bellowed, "He sees two guys laying on the floor in front of him: Marciano and Walcott! And to prove it, see that crown on his head?" (Hurley pointed to the hastily made cardboard crown cocked on his fighter's head.)

But fantasy turned out to be a long way from reality. The reality was that Marciano flattened Harry in two rounds and went on to strip Jersey Joe Walcott of the *real* heavyweight crown two months later.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Tim Witherspoon KO 3 Art Tucker
Larry Holmes W 10 Art Card
Larry Holmes KO 4 Michael Greer
Francois Botha W 10 Siza Makhatini
Yuri Vaulin KO 3 Siza Makhatini
Marshall Tillman W 10 Mike Evans
Rocky Pepeli KO 6 Troy Baudoin
David Bey D 10 Dave Jaco
Mark Gastineau KO 2 Timmy Murphy
Mark Gastineau KO 3 Mike Acklie
West Turner KO 1 Larry Pugh
Everett Mayo KO 2 Robert Jackson

CRUISERWEIGHTS
James Warring KO 1 James Pritchard
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Orlin Norris Tech. W 10 Jesse Shelby
Don Lalonde KO 3 Darryl Fromm
Uriah Grant KO 4 John Burney

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Jeff Harding W 12 Dennis Andries
(Regains WBC Title)
Esteban Pizzaro W 10 Leslie Stewart
Booker Word KO 10 Larry Prather
Iran Barkley W 10 Juan Hernandez
Sugarboy Malinga W 10 Leonard Friedman
James Kinchen KO 4 Guillermo Chavez
Matthew Saad Muhammad KO 1 Govoner Chavers

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Darrin Van Horn KO 3 John Jarvis
(Retains IBF Title)
Larry Musgrove KO 4 Tony Byrd

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julian Jackson KO 1 Dennis Milton
(Retains WBC Title)
Mike McCallum W 10 Carlos Cruz
(Non-Title Bout)
Kevin Watts W 10 Shawn O'Sullivan
Roy Jones KO 8 Lester Yarbrough
Roy Jones KO 2 Kevin Daigle
Gerald McClellan KO 1 Sammy Brooks
Frank Liles KO 2 Hector Zaragoza
Frank Nicotra W 10 Hector Rosario
Thomas Tate KO 7 Eddie Evans
Chris Sande W 10 Vince Durham
Joe Gatti KO 1 Ken Hulsey

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris KO 1 Brett Lally
(Retains WBC Title)
Gilbert Dele KO 6 Shannon Landberg
(Non-Title Bout)
Jorge Vaca KO 6 Mark Breland
Jorge Castro W 10 Italo Meza
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 2 Eduardo Contres
Segundo Mercado W 12 Ricardo Nunez
Jean-Claude Fontana KO 4 Mourad Louati
Vernon Phillips KO 2 Francisco Bobadilla
Luis Tyson Vasquez KO 4 Raymundo Torres
Chad Parker KO 2 Mario Salazar
Eric Holland W 10 Buster Drayton

WELTERWEIGHTS
Meldrick Taylor KO 6 Ernie Chavez
(Non-Title Bout)
Kevin Pompey KO 2 Kenny Louis
Manning Galloway W 12 Jeff Malcolm
Nika Khumalo W 10 Roque Montoya
David Kamau KO 4 Will Hernandez
Larry Barnes W 10 Victor Acosta
Tony Baltazar KO 5 Alberto Castro
Jan Nyholm W 10 Joni Nyman
Harry Arroyo W 10 Samsong

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Chavez W 12 Lonnie Smith
(Retains WBC Title)
Juan Coggi KO 7 Fernando Monroy
Oba Carr KO 5 Bernard Gray
Alberto Cortes W 10 Juan Contreras
Timmy Burgess Tech. W 11 Ricky Hesia
Primo Ramos W 10 Santana Llanes

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Darryll Tyson W 10 Lupe Suarez
Dingaan Thobela W 12 Tonito Rivera
Tonito Rivera KO 5 Sergio Martinez
Fidel Avendano W 12 Kelcie Banks
Antonio Renzo KO 11 Paul Charters
Ramon Marchena W 10 Mario Martinez
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 4 William Magahin
Jeff Mayweather KO 2 Eduardo Gonzales
Mike Evgen KO 3 Sylvester Kennon
Jose Castro W 10 Pedro Mendoza
Chad Broussard KO 4 Robert Dixon

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Jeff Fenech W 10 Miguel Francia
John-John Molina W 10 Rowdy Welch
Eugene Speed W 12 Jose Sanabria
Gabriel Ruelas W 12 Alvaro Bohorquez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Yung Kyun Park W 12 Eloy Rojas
(Retains WBA Title)
Marcos Villasana W 12 Ricardo Cepeda
(Retains WBC Title)
Fabrice Benichou KO 8 Salvatore Bottiglieri
Jesse James Leija KO 2 Sylvestre Castillo
Jackie Gunguluza KO 6 Harry Escott
John Davison KO 6 Richard Savage
Tony Green KO 7 Leonardo Mancillas
Harold Rhodes KO 4 Godfrey Johnson
Barrington Francis KO 4 Damian Sutton

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Chun Huh
(Retains WBC Title)
Jesse Benavides KO 5 Fernando Ramos
Jesus Salud W 12 Daryl Pinckney
Jemal Hinton KO 4 Juan Bisano
Eddie Rangel KO 1 Jeff Whaley

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Duke McKenzie W 12 Cesar Soto
Eliecer Julio KO 5 Robinson Mosquera
Happy Lora W 10 Rolando Bohol
Junior Jones KO 2 Ramon Solis
Javier Leon W 10 Josephino Suarez
Bones Adams W 10 Lee Cargle

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Jose Ruiz KO 3 Luis Monzote
Jose Ruiz W 10 Wilfredo Vargas

FLYWEIGHTS
Dave McAuley KO 10 Jacob Matlala
(Retains IBF Title)
Scotty Olson KO 1 Jose DeJesus Gomez
Isidro Perez W 12 Alli Galvez
Al Kotey KO 7 Pop Robinson
Jesus Chong KO 4 Daniel Lagos
Edgar Decena W 10 Tony DeLuca

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Rolando Pascua KO 3 Ebo Danquah
Hector Patri KO 7 Raul Torres

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ala Villamor KO 8 Sugar Ray Mike
Andy Tabanas W 10 Joe Constantino
Hideyuki Ohashi KO 5 Rico Macaubos

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4) Mike Tyson

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1) 49-0
2) 27-4
3) 87-0
4) 56-9

The movie based on the life of Jake LaMotta is:
1) Somebody Up There Likes Me
2) Rocky
3) Raging Bull
4) The Great White Hope

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2) Las Vegas
3) Atlantic City
4) London

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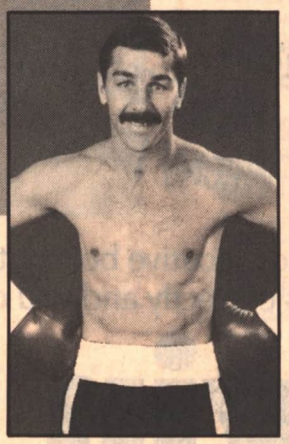
Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



Brian Mitchell

South Africa's Brian Mitchell substitutes poise, patience, and experience for speed, strength, and power. That formula allowed him to set a record for most successful title defenses in junior lightweight history, and, in September, helped produce a minor upset, his unanimous decision victory over IBF 130-pound champion Tony Lopez.

Against Lopez, Mitchell fought as he had throughout his WBA title reign, which turned into an extended road show. As the newly crowned IBF champion, he'll finally receive the opportunity to fight at home. (The WBA forbade champions from defending in South Africa; Mitchell vacated the title earlier this year.) Buoyed by a supportive crowd, Mitchell probably won't know how to react; since winning the WBA title in 1986, he's fought in his native land only three times—all non-title fights.

If a fighter ever deserved the perks that are attached to fighting in one's own backyard, it is Mitchell. He has earned them a dozen times over.

Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Chun Huh,

Seoul, South Korea—Mexican veteran Zaragoza, 122, retained the WBC super bantamweight title for the first time in his second reign, scoring an easy unanimous decision over amateurish Korean Huh at the banquet room of the Daehan Life Insurance Building. The scores were 119-106 (Herbert Minn), 118-107 (Takeaki Kanaya), and 118-108 (Vince Delgado).

The 23-year-old Huh was favored to take the title because of his advantages in youth (Zaragoza is 33), size (the Korean stands 5'10"), and punching power. But Huh never adjusted to Zaragoza's southpaw style, and, as a result, was soundly outboxed.

Huh started slowly and never sped up. Zaragoza, 43-5-1 (21), pinned him against the ropes for most of the first two rounds, and in the sixth, when Huh finally began to punch with fire, the champion easily averted the blows. The only damage came when a butt opened a cut on the right side of Zaragoza's forehead. Referee Carlos Padilla ruled it intentional and penalized Huh one point. Later in the round, Zaragoza, bleeding profusely, lost a point for illegal use of his elbows.

For most of the second half of the bout, Huh, 26-3 (19), offered nothing but a high guard and a determination to last the distance. The former OPBF bantamweight champion suffered a cut on his left eyebrow in the 10th, and the bout ended with both fighters spilling blood.

Promoter: Ho Yun Chun's Kukdong Promotions.

(8-24-91)

Joe Koizumi

Zaragoza took home the trophies

Terry Norris KO 1 Brett Lally,

San Diego, California—WBC super welterweight champion Norris, 153, Campo, California, 29-3 (16), retained the crown for the fourth time, knocking down Lally, 154, Westland, Michigan, 29-6 (18), three times before referee Rudy Ortega stopped the fight at the 2:40 mark of the first round. Lally, rated second, was the reigning NABF 154-pound champion.

An estimated crowd of 5,000 at the Sports Arena chanted "Terry, Terry," as the champion, boxing in his adopted hometown, entered the ring.

"The standing ovation gave me an extra push," Norris said. "I wanted to do my best."

Norris' strategy was to outbox Lally; while studying films, Abel Sanchez, the champion's trainer, noticed that when punching, Lally carried his right hand wide. The homework paid off when Lally threw a right and Norris countered with a sweeping hook. Lally fell, quickly rose, and continued his forward progress. But Norris attacked, and a left and short right uppercut sent Lally to one knee. Seconds later, a left-right produced knockdown number three, and Ortega chose to intervene without issuing a count. (The three-knockdown rule had been waived.)

"Norris had hard gloves and caught me early," was all Lally could say.

Norris' next defense will be a mandatory against Argentina's Jorge Castro. Asked what his dream

Lally was in la-la land

match would be, the 24-year-old champion said, "I already fought it against Sugar Ray Leonard."

The fight, promoted by Ten Goose Promotions and televised by HBO, drew a gate of $200,000, the largest in San Diego since the first Ali-Norton fight—also held at the Sports Arena—in 1973.

The judges were Dick Young, Sid Rubinstein, and Dr. Stuart Kirshenbaum. Norris earned $300,000, and Lally $65,000.

(8-17-91)

Paul Silverman

Darrin Van Horn KO 3 John Jarvis,

Irvine, California—Van Horn, 168, Lexington, Kentucky, 47-2 (27), made his first defense of the IBF super middleweight title, stopping the top-rated Jarvis, 168, Richmond, Virginia, 22-3 (16), in three rounds at the Bren Center of the University of California at Irvine.

Van Horn scored well in the first round, landing three crisp hooks to Jarvis' body. The challenger was content to circle and keep his distance behind a cautious jab.

Van Horn forced the action in the second and hurt Jarvis with a hard right and a hook to the body. Attempting to end the fight with one punch, the champion fired several wild rights that missed. Jarvis answered with jabs and a strong right, but his counters weren't hard enough to discourage Van Horn.

In the third, Van Horn missed with a right. Jarvis tried to counter with his own right, but Van Horn anticipated the punch and released a left to the body-cross to the chin combination that dropped the veteran Virginian. Lou Moret counted Jarvis out at the 1:11 mark, with the challenger rising an instant after the referee had tolled 10.

It was Jarvis' first fight in one year, and his inactivity was apparent. Van Horn, a senior majoring in broadcasting at the University of Kentucky, hopes to soon defend against Nigel Benn. He earned $80,000; Jarvis $25,000.

The bout, held on the afternoon of the Norris-Lally title fight, was co-promoted by Cedric Kushner and Nick Bartlett. The unofficial attendance was 1,300. On the undercard, actor Mickey Rourke fought a three-round exhibition with former middleweight champion Frank Tate.

(8-17-91)

Paul Silverman

Sung Kil Moon KO 5 Ernesto Ford,

Seoul, South Korea—On the same day that WBA 115-pound champion Khaosai Galaxy retained the title, Korea's Moon, 115, 15-1 (12), rejected the inspired challenge of Ford, 115, Panama City, Panama, 22-3 (13), and kept the WBC 115-pound crown for the fourth time before 2,000 fans at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

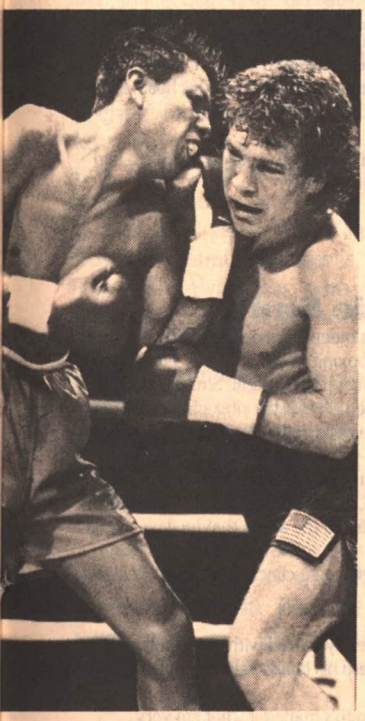
Celebrating his 28th birthday, Moon, who made two trips to the scales before making weight, answered the opening bell by charging at the stringbean challenger. Surprisingly, Ford, 26, stood his ground, and consistently beat the champion to the punch. The first two rounds sizzled, with Ford gaining a slight edge. In the third, however, referee Malcolm Bulner (Australia) penalized Ford twice, first for butting Moon—and opening a nasty gash over the cut-prone titlist's left eye—and then for punching low.

The cut seemed to inspire Moon, who rallied in the fourth by applying relentless pressure. In the fifth, Ford caved in after absorbing a brutal right to the ribcage. Two knockdowns followed, the second produced by a pair of rights. Ford lay on the canvas for about a minute after being counted out at the 2:35 mark.

At the time of the stoppage, Moon was comfortably ahead on all three cards. The judges were Dave Brown (Canada), Chuan Srisuk (Thailand), and Bruce McTavish (New Zealand). The promoter was Alan Kim (Camel Promotions).

(7-20-91)

Joe Koizumi



Medina (left) outhustled Dorsey

Manuel Medina W 12 Troy Dorsey,

Inglewood, California—The Great Western Forum continues to be a nightmare venue for world champions. The latest victim of the Forum jinx was Dorsey, 125¼, Mansfield, Texas, 12-4-4 (10), who lost the IBF featherweight title in his first defense via unanimous decision to Medina, 125¼, Tijuana, Mexico, 39-3 (18). The scores: 115-111, 115-112, and 114-111.

Dorsey was outboxed in the first round, but floored Medina in both the second and third with short rights.

"After the first knockdown," the 20-year-old Mexican said, "I got up and didn't think much of it. But after the second, I thought to myself that I better start boxing or this is going to end early."

The challenger took his own advice, and as the bout progressed, Dorsey, who weighed almost 140 only four days before the fight, slowed considerably. In the fourth, Medina, inspired by chants of "May-hee-co!", began to back up the champion, and in the fifth, his soft but accurate punches opened a cut on the Texan's right eyelid. (Later in the fight, Dorsey would suffer a cut on the left eyelid as well. Ringside physician Robert Karns examined the wounds three times, but allowed the blood-soaked champion to continue.)

Medina never threatened to kayo Dorsey, but, boxing smoothly, he won the last nine rounds.

"I was a one-punch fighter tonight," said Dorsey. "I couldn't get my motor running."

Dorsey earned $75,000; Medina $15,000. It was anticipated that Dorsey's second defense would come against perennial title threat Louie Espinoza. As it turned out, Medina won't be facing Espinoza, either. In the chief support, unaccomplished Californian Jose Martinez kayoed Espinoza in the eighth round.

The challengers have won five of the last six world title fights at the Forum.

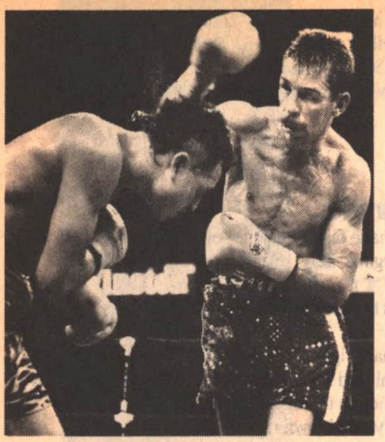
The attendance was 5,515.

(8-12-91)

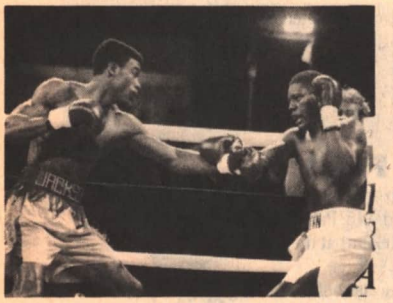
Michael Hepworth

James Warring KO 1 James Pritchard,

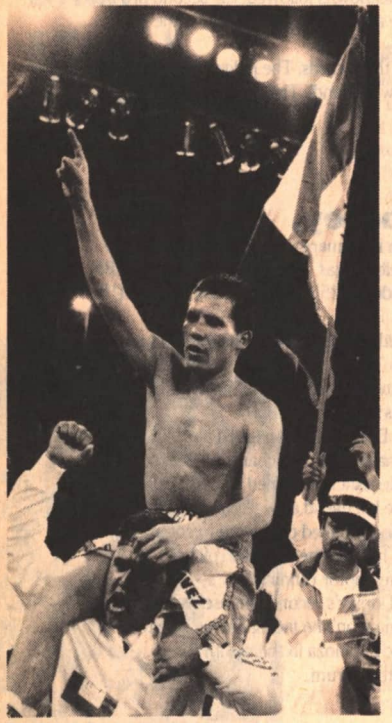
Sicily, Italy—On paper, at least, this bout, contested for the vacant IBF cruiserweight title, seemed forgettable. As it turned out, it made history. Pritchard was counted out at 24 seconds, making it the shortest title fight ever. The previous record was 40 seconds, set by then-WBC and IBF welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan when he kayoed Gene Hatcher in August 1987.



Mitchell was too sharp for Lopez



Jackson overwhelms Milton



Chavez: Still number one

Pritchard, 189, Louisville, Kentucky, 27-6 (22), and Warring, 186¼, Miami, Florida, 12-1 (8), opened by circling cautiously. Then former kickboxer Warring, who, at 6'4", held a three-inch height advantage, released two soft jabs, a harmless hook, and a straight right that zoomed through Pritchard's high guard. It was a classic one-punch kayo. Pritchard froze on the canvas and was counted out by referee Joey Curtis. Shortly afterward, he didn't seem to realize what had happened. Warring, on the other hand, poured tears of joy as he received the championship belt.
(9-7-91)

Brian Mitchell W 12 Tony Lopez,

Sacramento, California—Six months after their thrilling draw here, Mitchell, 129, Johannesburg, South Africa, intelligently outboxed defending IBF junior lightweight champion Lopez, 130, Sacramento, en route to a unanimous decision victory at the Arco Arena.

In May, Mitchell relinquished the WBA 130-pound title he had held since September 1986, opting for a rematch with Lopez instead of a far less lucrative mandatory defense against Venezuela's Anibal Nieves. He started much more quickly than he had in the first fight, taking rounds one and two. Lopez won the third and fourth, cutting Mitchell over the right eye. Veteran Ace Marotta kept the potentially dangerous cut under control, however, for the rest of the bout.

The bout's fast pace and rhythm was similar to Lopez-Mitchell I. Mitchell won the fifth and sixth, during which Lopez remained on the defensive. Lopez carried the seventh with a late rally, but Mitchell, working behind his persistent jab and straight right, took the next three rounds on all cards.

Over the last two rounds, a desperate Lopez, his face puffed and bruised, tried for a kayo. He did catch Mitchell with a few solid rights to the head, but they weren't enough. Fritz Werner and Mike Glienna both saw it 116-112, while Harry Davis scored 117-111. Mitchell rose to 43-1-2 (20); Lopez 37-3-1 (25).

The referee was Pat Russell.

Lopez, who needed three trips to the scale to make weight, did not rule out a third meeting with Mitchell. The South African has a mandatory defense due against former IBF king John-John Molina, who outpointed Rowdy Welch on the undercard. Whoever Mitchell fights, bet on the bout being in his homeland, where he was not allowed to defend while WBA champion. (The IBF lifted its ban in April.)
(9-13-91)
Steve Nicolaisen

Julian Jackson KO 1 Dennis Milton,

Las Vegas, Nevada—After retaining the WBC middleweight title for the first time with a spectacular kayo on the Chavez-Smith undercard at The Mirage, only one thing was on Jackson's mind: Mike McCallum. Jackson would have a perfect record if not for a kayo loss to McCallum in 1986. McCallum, now the WBA middleweight champion, will face IBF titlist James Toney in a unification bout on December 13. Jackson wants the winner. But after the Virgin Islander's kayo of Milton, will the winner want him?

Jackson, 158, 42-1 (40), made a mandatory defense against Milton, 159, Bronx, New York, 16-2-1 (5). Before the bout was 30 seconds old, the number-one contender was lunging at the champion, and, after catching a straight right, desperately clinching. Jackson stalked his fleeing foe, and followed jabs with big rights. Three crosses spun Milton sideways, and then another right, landing on the side of his head, left him flat. He was trying to rise on all fours when counted out by Mills Lane at the 2:10 mark.

Jackson earned $150,000; Milton $65,000.

"Dennis Milton was intimidated by my record," Jackson said. "I had planned to take away his jab and then work the body. But when I saw he was very cold, I decided to attack early.

"McCallum, I'm ready!"
(9-14-91)
Jack Welsh

Julio Cesar Chavez W 12 Lonnie Smith,

Las Vegas, Nevada—While his countrymen were celebrating Mexican Independence Day, WBC super lightweight champion Chavez, 140, 76-0 (65), celebrated his status as boxing's best fighter by punishing former champion Smith, 140, Las Vegas, 29-3-1 (15). In the days leading up to the fight, Smith promised "guerilla warfare." As it turned out, his bravado was insincere. He raced around the ring, changed directions, and won very few rounds. The scores: Harry Gibbs, 118-106, Dave Moretti, 119-107, and Tomatsu Tomihara, 119-109.

Chavez, a 14-1 favorite, earned $750,000, and a $100,000 cash bonus, delivered at the postfight press conference by promoter Don King. Smith made $100,000. The bout, Chavez' sixth defense, was fought before 11,313 fans at The Mirage. Owner Steve Wynn was so intent on filling the arena that he gave every hotel employee two free tickets.

The bout was uneventful until the fifth round, when Smith emerged from a clinch by kneeing Chavez in the groin. Referee Carlos Padilla deducted a point.

"Smith looked like a coward, and that's what he was," said Chavez.

Over the second half of the fight, Smith slowed and Chavez consistently scored with combinations to the head and body. After the fight, Smith was taken to a hospital, where his hands were examined. Given the few punches he had thrown, it seemed an odd postscript.

"The kid got a shot at the title tonight," said Sterling McPherson, Smith's manager, "but I'm very ashamed of what took place out there."
(9-14-91)
Jack Welsh ■

Joey Gamache

(Continued from page 47)

life I'll get, and I'm gonna have fun. The way I dress in the ring, people say to me, 'Aren't you nervous that you'll look dumb if you lose?' I'm never afraid I'll look dumb. Hey, if I go out, it'll be in style."

He shouldn't have to worry about going out any time soon. Reason number one: His continuous improvement. Gamache, 25-0 (15), is disciplined and patient, never tempted to take foolish chances in the heat of combat. He's slick and quick, darting in to deliver blistering combinations from a number of angles, then retreating in a flash. It's a style that can prove troublesome to anyone.

"Black fighters tell me I don't fight like a white guy," he says proudly.

Reason Number Two: Johnny Bos, Gamache's promoter, and a maniac in his own right. ("Actually, Joey's the Maine-iac," Bos explains. "I'm a Brooklynite.") The 39-year-old Bos looks like a Hulk Hogan who's sworn off the gym, and dresses like a guy who wants to be prepared for any Grateful Dead concert that might break out unexpectedly. Ring Bos' answering machine and you hear Monkees music. It's not clear what that says about the man, but it can't be anything good.

That two zanies like Gamache and Bos run around together is frightening. These are two guys who get off on going into Spencer Gifts, buying what they describe as a can of "fart spray," and then running around the mall, seeing how many unsuspecting senior citizens they can offend with their silent but deadly aerosol blasts.

You can see what we're dealing with here.

Despite the eccentricities, Bos, no tie-dyed in the wool guy, has handled Gamache almost flawlessly. At the same time, he's played the WBA as though it's an acoustic guitar and he's Jerry Garcia.

Gamache won the vacant WBA title in June at the Lewiston Raceway, with a 10th-round kayo of South Africa's Jerry N'Gobeni. After campaigning as a junior lightweight for years, Gamache, who fought his last amateur bout at 139, decided punishing himself to make the weight was becoming a detriment. But just when Gamache was preparing to move to lightweight this summer, Bos' phone rang.

WBA champion Brian Mitchell abdicated the throne in April, and in a weird twist of fate, none of the organization's top three contenders, nor fifth-rated Jeff Fenech, were available to fight for the vacant crown. That gave the opportunity to the fourth-rated Gamache and sixth-ranked N'Gobeni. Gamache turned in what he says was the worst performance of his career, but overcame 95-degree heat and the dehydration that had hospitalized him for two hours after the weigh-in the night before.

If there was a negative to the whole evening, it's that only 3,600 fans paid to get in, and the gate-crashers raised the total to roughly 7,000. Gamache's 1990 kayo of Irving Mitchell drew a bigger crowd.

"I was real surprised we didn't get 10,000 people," Gamache says. "Maybe it was the recession, the heat. Regardless, they should have been there. The diehards came, but I didn't get the other support. I said, 'Damn, man, next time I'll go somewhere else.' "

Somewhere else was going to be France, for a career-high $250,000 payday against French challenger Daniel Londas in September. But Genaro Hernandez, the WBA's top challenger and, as such, Gamache's mandatory defense, turned down an offer to step aside. If Gamache chose to avoid facing Hernandez, he'd be stripped of the crown. And if he didn't have a title, the Londas deal was off. As for Gamache-Hernandez, by Bos' estimate, the fight wouldn't earn his champion more than $90,000. Gamache would torture his body for $250,000, but $90,000 was another matter.

As we went to press, it appeared that Gamache was going to relinquish his title. Meanwhile, Bos, guitar pick in hand, was strumming the WBA again, lobbying to get Gamache rated as one of its top two lightweight contenders. That way, when Pernell Whitaker vacates the undisputed lightweight title, as expected later this year, Gamache will be in line to face South Korea's Chil Sun Chung for the vacant crown.

With a human minesweeper like Bos leading him across the high seas, Gamache, a la Mark Breland, could conceivably be a two-time world champion without having faced the artillery of anyone who posed a serious threat.

"In our situation, a Chavez would do this, a Camacho would do this," Bos says in defense of the strategy. "We never planned to defend the title anyway until the Londas offer came along. Joey always planned to move to lightweight. Now, because he won the junior lightweight title, the WBA will rate him first or second instead of ninth or 10th."

"If I don't have to fight a Whitaker or Chavez to get a title now, why should I?" Gamache asks. "As long as we're making money, I don't care. We're the smart ones. We can go after the better guys later on, and when we do, there won't be any wear and tear on me."

Gamache actually had a fight scheduled with highly respected Brian Mitchell, then the WBA king, in September 1990. But he sustained too much wear and tear six weeks before the battle, when his Chevy Celebrity was hit by a pickup truck that had run a stop sign. Gamache's son, Steven, then six, was unhurt, but the fighter's head hit the windshield. He suffered a cracked sternum and swollen knee, and numerous cuts. Ever the gritty warrior, he staggered from the car in a haze and instinctively began firing combinations into the air.

Soon afterward, Gamache filmed a public service spot, telling viewers, "I lost a title fight because I didn't wear a seatbelt. I was lucky. I could have lost my life."

That the accident wasn't Gamache's fault at all is ironic, for when he's behind the wheel, that's usually reason to clear the highways and sound the Civil Defense alarms. He admits to getting frequently stopped for speeding, but it was a fancy piece of reckless driving that has made him both a legend and a marked man in the tiny town of Gonzales, Texas.

In 1985, when he was still an amateur, Gamache spent three months training and being scouted at the ranch owned by millionaire businesswoman and Houston Boxing Association President Josephine Abercrombie. Bored beyond belief one night ("It was all farmland, and 20 miles to town"), he borrowed Abercrombie's van, recruited former lightweight champion Harry Arroyo as a passenger, and decided to tour the great outdoors. Oh, beautiful, for spacious skies, for flattened waves of grain.

"I started mowing down the cornfields," he says between howls. "You can't believe how much I mowed down. Then I saw a gap, like a valley, and I said to Harry, 'Let's jump it.' We heard a loud bang when it landed,

(Continued on page 56)

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Joey Gamache

(Continued from page 55)

but we made it. When we got back to our cabin, there was a Chinese guy there, one of the sparring partners. We picked him up and went back. I was mowing down more corn, then I tried the jump again. This time I missed and hit a fence. I tore a tire off, tore off the bumper, cracked the frame.

"When I went back, I told [trainer] Jesse Reid that I had a blowout in the cornfield and that the van was gone. The next morning, he woke up and saw all these Mexicans picking up the corn I mowed down."

"He took out at least 15 acres," says Bob Spagnola, a manager who, at the time, was closely tied to HBA.

"Abercrombie sent me home first-class, that's how anxious she was to get rid of me," Gamache adds. "She wanted me out of there, and that was the only seat available on the plane."

(*The Ring* attempted to reach Mrs. Abercrombie for her recollection of Gamache's ranching days, but was told by her staff that she wouldn't comment on the topic of Joey Gamache.)

Says Gamache, "I do what I want when I want and how I want."

That was quite evident last year, when Gamache was scheduled for a photo shoot with *The Ring* on the weekend of the Camacho-Pazienza fight in Atlantic City. An hour after the agreed-upon time, there was still no sign of him. That's because he'd long since taken off with a long-legged "foxy boxer" from a local nightclub, leaving an embarrassed Bos wandering around the hotel lobby, trying to explain.

"I love women," Gamache says. "I've had beautiful ones, ugly ones. I find beauty in all of them. That one in Atlantic City, I took her to the fight that night, and they sat us in the middle of the Pazienza fans from Rhode Island. She was screaming bad things at Pazienza all night. I figured I better get out of there. She was crazy. She didn't even scream that loud in bed."

"Maybe," Bos chimes in, "that had something to do with you."

Weird things seem to always happen when Gamache, a camera, and a backdrop are involved. In July, he and Bos visited *The Ring* to finally get those long-overdue pictures taken. After running through the standard shots, Gamache insisted on stretching out in a *Playgirl*-style pose while wearing nothing but his title belt draped across his waist.

"Make sure you fit everything under that belt," Bos warned the prone fighter. "You know, *Tommy Hearns* could never do this."

Somewhat surprisingly, Gamache shows no concern—not so much as a trace—that such silliness is going to get him labeled another Paz or Paez, guys known first and foremost as one-man Las Vegas stage shows. This is not someone who worries what people think. Bos cares a bit more, though, which is why he's quick to point out Gamache's amateur accomplishments as further proof that the kid can fight.

That amateur career included a National Junior Olympics title, the championship of the 1984 East Coast Olympic Trials, a semifinal finish in the National Olympic Trials, and a 5-1 record in international competition. Gamache and Bos have attached an asterisk to that one loss, a kayo at the hands of Engels Pedroza in a U.S.-Venezuela dual meet in Orlando, Florida. They blame it on too much night life. While the rest of the team visited Disney World, Gamache went out on his own and soon discovered that, to some ladies in town, he was a bigger attraction than Space Mountain.

"I learned," Gamache swears. "Since I've been a pro, I don't ever mess around during training anymore. Lately, I haven't been going out that much between fights, either."

"No, now they all come over," says Bos.

Becoming everyone else's house guest is a main Gamache goal for '92. Bos is negotiating to get him greater TV exposure than what he has already garnered on the USA Network—not an easy mission in light of the commercial networks' shrinking boxing schedules—and has spoken to TVKO and ABC.

"I don't think it's been acknowledged that much that I'm a world champion," says Gamache. "People here in Maine already know me, so the world title doesn't mean much to them. If this was five years ago, I'd be on network TV every other month. I *should* be on. This is no show. This is me. I'm not a normal guy. I'm a little weird. But people say you get something only when you swing for it, and I'm always swinging."

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Billy Smith

(Continued from page 39)

He lost 10 fights because of fouls, and others were stopped by local police after they began to resemble barroom brawls. He once tried to thumb Joe Walcott *in the mouth.*

"It is just a plain statement of fact," wrote Tickell. "Mysterious Billy was a sterling representative of a class of glovemen whose members fought not merely for gain, but because they liked to fight, and would have been unhappy and probably useless in any other vocation than that of the roped arena."

Smith simply wanted to win—and he did so any way he saw fit. The record shows that he fought 85 times between 1891 and 1911. He won 56 times (22 by knockout) and fought to a draw on seven other occasions.

Smith was the second fighter to hold the welterweight title, which he earned with a 14th-round kayo of Danny Needham in December 1892. He lost it to Tommy Ryan in July 1894, then won it back four years later against Matty Mathews.

What the record doesn't show were his dozens of fights outside the ring. In those unscheduled bouts, Smith did some of his best work in front of a few lucky fans.

"Mysterious Billy Smith never dodged trouble of any kind," wrote one boxing writer. "As a matter of fact, he ran to meet it with open arms and a welcoming smile. Fighting was his middle name. When he was in the ring, it was a scrap from gong to gong, and when he was outside the roped square, he always carried a chip on his shoulder about two feet long, and woe to him who dared to throw it off."

Smith didn't dispute the charge.

"Whether there was any money in it or not, I always liked to fight," he said. "The official record shows I fought in 85 ring battles against everything from lightweights to heavies. I was also mixed up in probably twice as many street and barroom fights, some of them pretty good ones, although all I ever got out of them was fun."

There really wasn't any mystery to Billy Smith. He was a scrapper from the first round to the last. And once the bell rang, anything was possible. But there is some mystery concerning the place of his birth and his start in the ring.

Mysterious Billy was born Amos Smith on May 15, 1871, and was a clean-cut, rosy-cheeked, handsome teenager. In the late-1880s, he wondered into a Boston gym and declared to all those present that he was fighter looking for work. Looking nothing like a fighter, he wasn't taken seriously.

"What's your name?" someone asked.

"Amos Smith," he replied.

"Amos! That's a hell of a name for a fighter," Smith was told.

Smith eventually landed a few bouts, but, sure that his future in Boston wasn't bright, headed west.

Soon after, the Associated Press wires from California began reporting the results of an unknown fighter named Billy Smith, who called Boston his home. Captain Cooke, editor of the *Police News,* read one wire and remarked, "I see that 'Mysterious' Billy Smith is at it again."

It was widely believed that Smith hailed from Orange Street in Eastport, Maine. Several years ago, that town was about to erect a monument to honor "Maine's only world champion." But the Veterans Boxers Association in Boston did a quick check and discovered Smith's real birthplace—Boston—causing those on Orange Street to turn red with embarrassment.

Smith's last fight out west was against Needham for the vacant welterweight title. A $2,000 check came with the championship, and Smith quickly headed back east to defend the crown.

"Being champion in those days didn't mean that you could get caught up with your Shakespeare reading," Smith explained. "You had to fight right along and fight anyone who asked for it."

Smith fought all comers, including Hall of Famers Tommy Ryan and Walcott six times each. His bouts with Ryan were legendary. Ryan took the title from Smith after outlasting him over 20 rounds in July 1894.

Smith was still seething from the loss, in which Joe Choynski, a stablemate of Ryan's, was the referee. In a twist, it was Smith who felt he was the victim of illegal tactics. Ringside witnesses agreed.

One year later, a rematch, scheduled for 45 rounds or more, was signed. The prefight agreement contained a provision stating that the contest would be called a draw if there was interference of any kind.

A special train shipped Smith's supporters from Boston to New York for the fight. Also in the standing-room-only crowd that night was Police Inspector Clayton and several dozen of his boys.

Smith was snarling and biting from the opening bell. In the 11th, he had Ryan on the ropes when Clayton and his men interceded. Promoter Alec Brown assured the inspector that there would be no more biting, and the fight was allowed to continue. While the short delay drove the crowd into a frenzy, Ryan was in his corner regaining his wits.

The fighters resembled a pair of wild wolves, and even referee Tim Hurst hit the deck after catching an errant punch tossed by Smith. Frustrated at his failure to finish Ryan off, Smith quickly reverted to what he knew best: He tried to trip his opponent, and even went as far as to bite Ryan's leg. The enraged Ryan freed himself and began to batter Smith around the ring. There wasn't a spot above Smith's belt that wasn't raw and bruised. By the 18th round, fans were becoming disgusted by the massacre.

Inspector Clayton included. Responding to the crowd's shouts of "Stop it! Stop it!," he rushed the ring for the second time. Ryan was dragged away kicking and screaming, and the fight was declared a draw.

None of Smith's bouts with Walcott sank to the level of the Ryan ordeal. But they did serve to cement Smith's bad-boy reputation. In one fight, Smith wrestled Walcott in the clinches, used the heel of his glove as a weapon, bit Walcott in the head, elbowed him the neck, and tried to jam his thumb in his opponent's eye. Hurst, again the referee, just laughed and told the men to fight on. The bout ended in a draw.

Over the course of their meetings, Smith developed a sweet tooth for Walcott's scalp. After one fight, Walcott declared that his head resembled a golf ball that had been repeatedly topped by a bad player.

Smith quickly established himself as the demon of the division and often had to search for opponents. During his first title reign, he traveled to Spring Valley, Illinois, to fight Eddie Butler. It was a winner-take-all affair, and Smith did just that by scoring an easy second-round TKO. But the night was significant because Smith was victorious not only inside the ring, but outside as well.

Spring Valley was a tough mining town, and the locals were on strike. Some decided the price of admission for Smith-Butler was too high and tried to sneak into the arena by crawling through the windows. The manager ignored the intruders, but Smith, fighting for the gate receipts, threw off his coat, ran to the windows, and began dealing with the gate-crashers in his own way.

"There were four windows, and it kept me hustling," he later recalled. "As fast as a mug showed up, I'd let him have it in the face. I battered up quite a bunch of them, for I couldn't afford to lose all that money. Besides, it made me mad to see such poor management."

The crowd, upset with Smith's house-cleaning, grew even angrier with his treatment of the local fighter. Smith, sensing that he wasn't the sentimental favorite, decided to keep the fight in the center of the ring so the ringsiders couldn't grab or punch him. But they were able to hit him with chunks of coal, and several pieces sailed into the ring as the fight went on. Smith had originally planned to carry Butler for eight or 10 rounds so the fans would get their money's worth. He quickly changed his mind.

After the bout, the crowd began to break up the benches, and several rushed the ring. Smith picked up two water bottles and began swinging in self-defense, dropping a couple of his critics. The rest kept their distance. Smith headed to a nearby saloon to collect his money—$750. An angry mob followed him to the train station and made sure he left town.

Throughout his career, Smith's actions in the ring brought mixed reviews. He was criticized in editorials, yet hailed on the sports pages. Referee Billy Roche called Smith the greatest welterweight he ever saw.

"We don't have any such great fighters as Mysterious Billy nowadays," lamented Roche during an interview in 1929.

Some also praised Smith's toughness. He broke his left arm when he hit Con Doyle with a vicious hook to the chin during the third round of their fight in January 1897. A sharp crack was heard upon impact, and Doyle and ringsiders expected Smith to quit. But he answered the bell to start the fourth round and fought the rest of the way with one hand. The bout ended in a 12-round draw.

Three months later, Smith again

(Continued on page 61)

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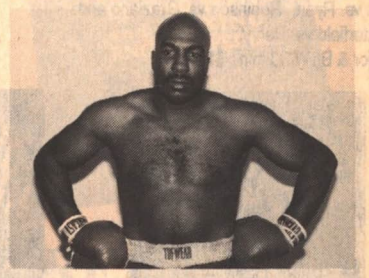

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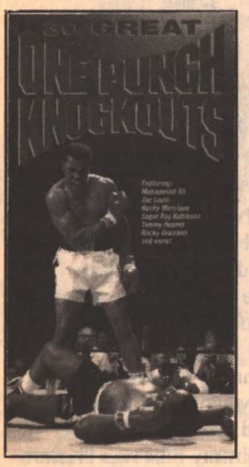

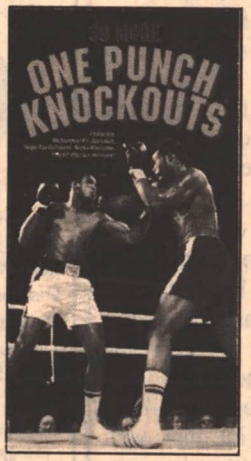

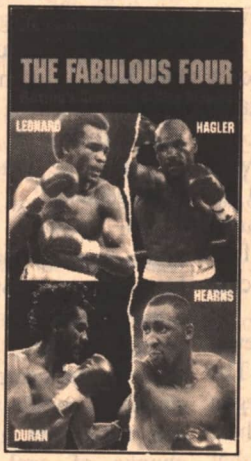

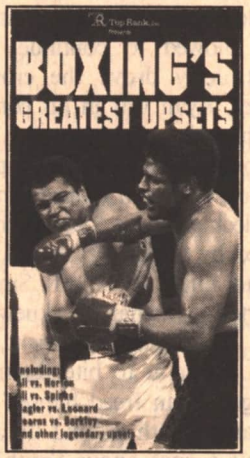

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Billy Smith

(Continued from page 59)

climbed into the ring, this time to face George Green. Smith fought with his left arm bandaged from wrist to elbow. He planned to use the injured wing as a shield. But during the third round, he saw an opening and let fly with a left hook. He broke the arm again, and it immediatly began to swell. Tom Sharkey, one of Smith's seconds, tried to stop the fight. But Smith refused to quit. In the 12th round, Sharkey threw in the towel . . . but made sure to do it while Smith's back was turned.

Smith's last official fight was against Jim Cameron in July 1911. He lost on a foul in the third round and decided to hang up his gloves for good. He had first retired after breaking his hand on Walcott's head during a fight in 1903. He began a comeback in 1910, but it lasted just two bouts.

He retired to the peaceful Pacific Northwest and relocated in Portland, Oregon. Trouble, however, continued to cross his path. He ran a waterside saloon called The Champion's Rest and was quick to have a go with any patron who as much as looked at him the wrong way. He was charged with manslaughter on one occasion, and was later shot and seriously wounded by his ex-wife's husband.

Smith's weight ballooned to more than 230 pounds. He maintained his fondness for diamonds, expensive clothes, and big cars, but also spent time at nearby gyms, offering his services to novice boxers and managers. He had a son who started on the path to prizefighting, but as a father, his expectations were modest.

"The kid's not a true fighter at heart," Mysterious Billy told reporters. "My dope is to leave your manners in the dressing room if you're a fighter. When you get into that ring, rip and tear and fight. It's no place for a gentleman."

Smith died from a variety of causes on October 15, 1937. He was 66. In one of his last interviews, he stated that he had no interest in the current fight game. It wasn't manly enough for him. He wore his infamous reputation as proudly as his championship belts.

"I hope the old-timers who remember me in my fighting days will remember a rough, vicious, dirty, and hard fighter, but a fighter all the time," he said. "That's exactly what I was. And if I had to do it all over again, I'd play the same way."

Patrick J. Leonard is a boxing historian based in Braintree, Massachusetts. Roger Mooney is a freelance writer based in South Huntington, New York. ■

Jerry Quarry

(Continued from page 21)

In 1972, when Quarry lost for a second time to Muhammad Ali, boxing contained 11 weight classes and recognized 17 world champions. Today, there are 17 weight classes and a total of 51 world titles to be fought for. Among the newly created classes is the cruiserweight division, a haven for fighters too big to be light heavyweights and too small to challenge 220-pound heavyweights. Quarry, who in his prime was 6-feet and 195 pounds, was a prototypical cruiserweight. Had there been such a division in 1972, he might still be a world champion today. He was that good.

"Jerry Quarry was as good a heavyweight as there was in his day," said Teddy Brenner, Madison Square Garden's matchmaker in the '70s.

But as if the butt of a cruel practical joke, Quarry fought in an era dominated by Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, and George Foreman. Theirs was considered the finest time in heavyweight history. Quarry bravely swapped punches with Ali, Frazier, and Ken Norton. The second tier of heavyweights wasn't much easier. He fought world champions Floyd Patterson and Jimmy Ellis, as well as quality contenders Buster Mathis, George Chuvalo, Earnie Shavers, and Ron Lyle.

With the exception of Foreman, Quarry tested the best of his time. He had desperately tried to get Foreman in the ring, but on three occasions the Foreman camp found a reason not to fight. Foreman's hesitation stemmed from a sparring session shortly after he won the gold medal at the 1968 Olympics. Quarry punished the young Foreman and, at least in Big George's eyes, was forever dismissed as a potential opponent.

"Jerry Quarry was the best fighter in the world who never became a champion," Foreman said. "It was just destiny."

Some fighters are talented enough to control their own destiny, while others are merely victims of it. Quarry happened to be a victim. He boxed for 13

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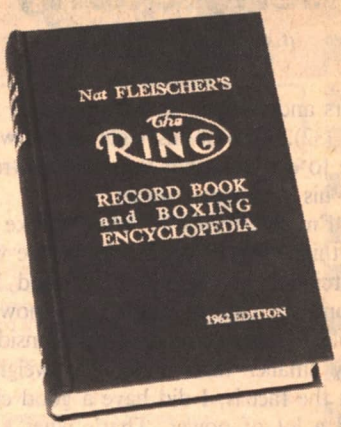

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Jerry Quarry

(Continued from page 61)

years and finished with a record of 53-8-4 (32). Five of his eight losses were due to cuts, his thin skin often betraying his courageous heart.

"I'm not trying to blow smoke or anything, but 10 years prior to me was Marciano, and he was 5'10" and 185 pounds," Quarry said. "I know I could have beaten him. I was considerably smaller than most heavyweights. But the fact is, I did have a good chin and a lot of power. That's what kept me in there. When Louis came along, there wasn't that much around. When I fought, there was a lot of good heavyweights. The era I fought in was the best of all-time, there's no doubt in my mind."

Quarry fought for the heavyweight title twice, which is more often than most. In each case, he came away a loser.

When Ali was stripped of his title in 1967, Quarry participated in a WBA elimination tournament to crown a new champion. He beat Patterson and Thad Spencer, and then faced Ellis in the final. He lost a majority decision while fighting the entire 15 rounds with a fractured fourth lumbar vertebra.

In 1969, after winning a 12-round decision over Mathis, Quarry challenged Frazier for the New York State heavyweight title. He was stopped on cuts in the seventh round.

"Quarry had ability," Brenner said. "He knew how to fight, but he was too Irish, too stubborn. He'd have a fight plan, but he couldn't carry it out. After the first good exchange of punches, he'd get mad and forget everything."

Quarry knew how to fight Frazier; they had sparred in the Main Street Gym in Los Angeles. To beat him, he knew he'd have to use his boxing instincts and considerable counterpunching skills.

"I want to tell you what I did wrong there," said Quarry, reflecting on the loss that caused more emotional than physical damage. "Ten days prior to the fight there was a big article in the papers that said I was a coward for the way I fought Jimmy Ellis. People were saying *I* was a coward. When I walked out and met Joe Frazier in the middle of the ring, it was the stupidest thing I could ever do. But it's the Irish pride. It was totally asinine, because I boxed with Joe Frazier and I didn't have any problems with him. My hand speed was so much faster than his. I was moving and boxing, and that's the only way you can fight Joe Frazier. You can't meet him in the middle of the ring."

From that fight on, Quarry met most of his opponents in the middle of the ring. He turned into a blue-collar fighter and gave fans what they paid to see: a fistfight. From a strategic standpoint, his aggressive, free-swinging style may have ultimately failed him. But it did earn him the admiration of the boxing public, particularly in New York.

Several of Quarry's fiercest and most significant battles were fought at Madison Square Garden. And while he lost four of the 12 times he fought in the Big Apple—including both fights with Frazier—he thrilled New Yorkers with knockouts of Shavers, the previously unbeaten Mac Foster, and Randy Neumann.

"In the state of California, I don't get that much respect," Quarry said. "Back East, I get everything I ever wanted. Out here, unless you win [the title], you're nobody. In New York, whether I won or I lost, they loved me because I got in that ring and I gave them my all."

Anyone who ever saw Quarry in action cannot deny that he always came to fight. He had the required combination of talent and fortitude that allowed him to consistently perform well. The only thing that held him back was his birthdate. Ten years earlier or 10 years later and Quarry might have been the heavyweight champion of the world.

"He was discouraged after he lost that 15-round fight to Jimmy Ellis," Foreman said. "Somehow people criticized him about it and he stopped being a counterpuncher. It made him do something tactically wrong. He attacked Joe Frazier. If he had beat Jimmy Ellis and then counterpunched Joe Frazier, he would have been heavyweight champion for a long time.

"To live with that is agony."

***

As children, we are encouraged to chase our dreams. For most of us, there comes a time when the dream dies and we resign ourselves to live the life that we've been dealt. Quarry has been dealt several bad hands, but, sadly, he has never given up on the dream of becoming a world champion.

Quarry's 1983 comeback as a cruiserweight ended a five-year retirement. He trimmed down from 240 pounds and, weighing 190, beat clubfighters Lupe Guerra and James Williams. However, after suffering cuts over both eyes in the Williams fight, he retired again.

Inspired by the comeback of Foreman, Quarry returned to the gym last June and was scheduled to fight journeyman Paul Bradshaw in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. But an impromptu bout with West Coast promoter John Ellis resulted in a nine-stitch cut over Quarry's right eye. The comeback was over before it began.

"I'd rather see him finished than do it half-heartedly," said Guy Ditmars, who trained Quarry last year and is currently preparing Jerry's 40-year-old brother Mike, formerly a top-10 light heavyweight, for a comeback. "The power was still there. He was very impressive when we went to camp. But after that stuff with John Ellis, his heart just went out of it."

It was originally reported that Quarry suffered the cut when a kitchen cabinet inadvertently struck him in the eye while he was washing dishes. Two days later, however, it was revealed that

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Quarry and Ditmars had been involved in an altercation with Ellis in which Quarry was cut and Ditmars sustained a concussion and five broken ribs. [Quarry and Ditmars have filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Ellis. They've been instructed by their lawyers not to discuss the incident. Quarry did claim to have been hit while removing his bag gloves; John Ellis has claimed that Quarry struck him first.]

Without the excitement of a comeback, Quarry was left with only his past, which remains his toughest opponent. He is stuck there, but can no longer release his frustrations by fighting. It has been said he now finds his escape by draining a six-pack of beer. One friend of Quarry's, who asked to remain anonymous, said, "Every time he goes out, people say here's the great Jerry Quarry, and everyone wants to by him a beer."

Jeff Ryan, *The Ring's* managing editor, recalled seeing Quarry while covering a fight at Caesars Palace.

"It was very early in the morning, about eight or nine o'clock," Ryan said. "In the hotel gift shop, Jerry Quarry, a glass of beer in hand, was staggering around like one of those stereotypical drunks in a cartoon."

Ditmars, who at one time intimated he was "worried" about Quarry's drinking, said that his friend now stays sober and has begun doing roadwork again.

"Right now he's stopped drinking," Ditmars said. "He realizes it doesn't do him any good. He doesn't like the condition he's in."

Another friend of Quarry's said, "He made a promise to himself that he would stay away from the so-called buddies who do all the partying. Certain buddies like to have Jerry around. But now I think he knows who is an alcoholic and who isn't."

***

The first time a pair of boxing gloves were laced onto the fists of Jerry Quarry, he was three years old. By the time he was 15, he had already engaged in more than 100 amateur fights. And that doesn't include the ones staged in his living room with his brother.

Jerry and Mike were forced to fight. They were pushed into a brutal sport by their father, Jack Quarry, a professional fighter whose career was shortened by cirrhosis.

There is something about boxing that separates fathers and sons. Publicly, Quarry's relationship with his father, who now lives in West Virginia, may have seemed better than most. But Quarry remains bitter over the fact that Jack allowed him to fight Jimmy Ellis with a broken back.

"My dad and [co-manager] Johnny Flores took me to an orthopedic specialist two weeks prior to the fight," Quarry recalled. "He was probing my back every day, but they would not let him X-ray my back. The money [to fight Ellis] was $125,000. Well, my father and Johnny Flores never even *heard* of 125,000. It was more important that they had the money than my own health. I was mismanaged. Totally and completely mismanaged. I should have been heavyweight champion."

Most champions are revered for a lifetime. They enjoy endorsements, book and movie offers, and, most importantly, respect. After he retired, Quarry appeared on several TV shows and worked briefly as a boxing commentator for CBS. Today, there are few options, and, at times, even less respect. While Quarry was being introduced at a recent boxing show in California, a fan threw a full cup of beer at him.

Things seem to be worse away from boxing. Quarry's third marriage recently failed, and he was subsequently forced out of a condo in Agoura Hills, California. One boxing writer who has followed Quarry's career and planned comeback said the fighter now sleeps at the homes of various friends and relatives. When asked what he did for a living, Quarry was evasive.

"I'm doing quite a few things," he said, "and just trying to stay out of trouble."

One associate of Quarry's added, "He can't work a regular job because he can't focus that long. He's like a kid—he gets distracted."

Quarry was hired by promoter Bob Arum to help with publicity for the Ray Mercer-Tommy Morrison heavyweight bout, fostering Morrison's image as the White Hope of the '90s. Quarry also said he plans to publish a book of poetry some time this year, and that he and a California sports memorabilia enthusiast, Frank Leon, have started a corporation called the United Boxing Association. The UBA will merchandise a line of boxing memorabilia that will fund a profit-sharing plan for fighters who participate in it. Leon's long-term goal is to establish medical coverage and a pension plan for all fighters.

(Continued on page 64)

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Jerry Quarry

(Continued from page 63)

"To be quite honest," he said, "I thought about this with Jerry in mind. I saw so many fighters and how they went from point A to point B after their careers. They go from the top of the world to shining shoes."

In Rod Serling's *Requiem For A Heavyweight,* there is a monologue that describes the struggle many fighters go through after the fighting is over. The scene opens with Mountain McClintock, the lead character, filling out papers at an unemployment office after his manager has forced him to retire.

"A guy goes along 14 years, all he does is fight," McClintock says. "Once a week, twice a week, prelims, semifinals, finals. He don't know nothin' but that. All he can do is fight. Then they tell him no more. And what's he supposed to do? What's he supposed to know how to do but fight? . . . I don't fit into any of these holes here. Like this question here, when did you leave your last job, state the reason. I left my last job because I got hit so much that I was on my way to punchy land and that I'd probably go blind . . . You know, in 1948 they ranked me number five. I'm not kiddin' ya, number five. And it wasn't an easy year, either. There was Charles, Walcott, and Louis was still around."

In 1973, George Foreman was the heavyweight champion of the world. Muhammad Ali was ranked first, Joe Frazier second, Ken Norton third, and Quarry fourth. He belonged there. But like McClintock, when the gloves were cut off for the last time, Quarry couldn't find his place. He estimates that he made $1.8-million in his boxing career. He has a retirement fund, but cannot touch the money for another 14 years, when he turns 60.

"Celebrities make big money; I didn't make that kind of money," Quarry said. "After trainer, manager, and Uncle Sam, I netted about a half-million. Now you have welterweights and even flyweights making more money than that.

"I'm not angry with it, though. But there is one thing I'm a little disappointed with. I don't get the respect, or I had not gotten the respect that I think I deserved. Because when I got in that ring, whether I won or I lost, you were going to see a good fight. I gave it my all. One thing about me, I had as much heart as anyone in the business."

And that should count for something more than just a struggle with his memories. ■

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Chavez

(Continued from page 37)

far for catalysts. Hector Camacho has always said he wants to fight Chavez, and Pernell Whitaker insists there's no one he'd rather fight.

There was serious talk last spring about a Chavez-Camacho match, but animosity between promoters Dan Duva, who handles Camacho and Whitaker, and King helped thwart the promotion.

Camacho helped tarnish a potentially magnificent matchup when he lost for the first time, to Greg Haugen. If Camacho had remained unbeaten, he and Chavez would have each received $4½-million to risk their unblemished records.

With Camacho at least temporarily forgotten, Chavez turned first toward perennial contender Harold Brazier and then the revitalized Terrence Alli. After those bouts failed to come off, the champion signed to defend against Lonnie Smith, a longtime King fighter. But Smith was hardly competitive. He avoided confrontation for all 12 rounds, and Chavez triumphed by scores of 118-106, 118-109, and 119-107.

At the postfight press conference, Chavez said, "Now I want to face Hector Camacho very bad, and retire him."

A good deal of fans would pay to see Chavez put the hurt on the unpopular Camacho, but whenever the "Macho Man" is involved, money often becomes a stumbling block. Which is why Al Braverman, the director of boxing for Don King Productions, warns that Chavez-Camacho is hardly a sure bet.

"In Camacho, you're dealing with a walnut, a cuckoo-cuckoo bird," Braverman has said. "That's why his fights don't always come off. He thinks he ought to get more than he's worth. You see, Camacho asks for $5-million. So you give it to him, and suddenly he wants $6-million. And if he keeps acting this way, we'll never see him and Chavez fight."

Camacho realizes that Chavez represents the most difficult fight of his career, and he wants to be paid better than well. Given the factors involved, there's a 50-50 chance that Camacho will be part of Chavez' future.

A more realistic possibility is Chavez-Whitaker. Whitaker, the undisputed lightweight champion, has expressed a desire to move up from 135 pounds to 140. But if he hopes to fight Chavez at that weight, he'd better jump up before Chavez does.

"Once again," Braverman said, "you have Don King who has Chavez, and Dan Duva, who has Whitaker, and these guys must get together before the fighters can. There's been somewhat of a thawing in their relationship since Holyfield-Tyson was made, but we'll have to see what happens."

Beating Camacho would increase Chavez' recognition and add consider-

(Continued on page 69)

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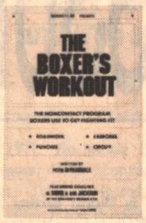

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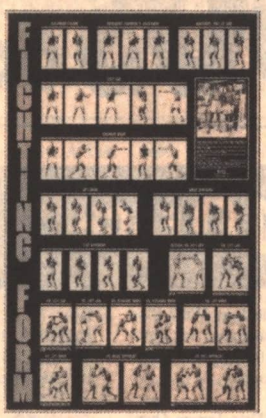

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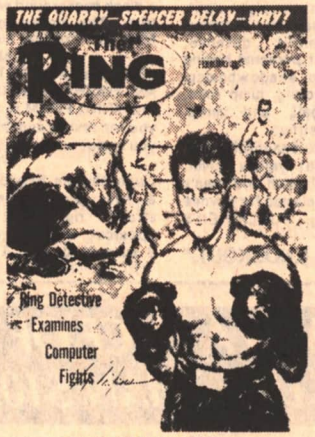

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April 1969: Controversy Rages: Ketchel Or Robinson? Plus: Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Bob Foster, computer fights, Buster Mathis.

May 1969: Frazier-Ellis—A Knockout For 1969! Plus: Mando Ramos, Bob Foster, cornermen, Marty Servo.

June 1969: Do Women Really Rule Boxing? Plus: Mando Ramos, trainers, Cassius Clay, Jerry Quarry, knockdown rule.

Oct. 1969: "How I'll Win" by Joe Frazier & Jimmy Ellis. Plus: What's next for Clay, Joe Bugner, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Mac Foster, Vicente Saldivar.

Nov. 1969: How Much Has Aging Liston Left? Plus: Ruben Olivares, Tommy Walsh, Battling Levinsky, referees.

Feb. 1970: Computer Controversy—Clay Or Marciano? Plus: Nino Benvenuti, Dick Tiger, Mike Quarry, Carlos Ortiz, Foreman-Davila, Johnny Griffin.

June 1970: Stars Warn Frazier On His Future! Plus: Willie Pep, Bethea-Benvenuti, Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier.

Nov. 1970: Is George Foreman For Real? Plus: Foreman-Chuvalo, British fighters, Randy Turpin, Tommy Farr.

Dec. 1970: Frazier's Title In Jeopardy? Plus: Patterson-Green, Bob Foster, Frazier-Foreman preview, Schmeling-Sharkey.

July 1971: Is George Foreman Next Champ? Plus: Frazier-Clay, Olivares-Castillo, 105 rounds of mayhem, Nicolino Loche, Foster-Anderson.

Aug. 1971: Nino's Kayo—U.S. Judge Tells All! Plus: Wilt Chamberlain, Monzon-Benvenuti II, Adolph Pruitt, Napoles-Backus II, Denny McNamee.

Nov. 1971: Gene Tunney Finally Talks: On Clay, Frazier, Dempsey! Plus: Jose Napoles, Al Silvani, Clay-Frazier II?, Cus D'Amato, Marcano-Kobayashi, Ezzard Charles, Ruben Navarro.

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

Dec. 1971: Buchanan No. 1 In Fistic Cleverness? Plus: Monzon-Griffith I, Joe Bugner, Tommy Burns, Buchanan-Duran?, New York Boxing, Bodell-Bugner, "Halimi" Gutierrez.

April 1972: Is Frazier-Clay Rematch Off? Plus: Frazier-Daniels, Clay-Blin, Hall Of Fame (Graziano, Saddler, Berlenbach, Clark, Flowers), Armando Muniz, Pascual Perez, Griffith rates Monzon, fights that never came off, Tito Lectoure.

Jan. 1973: Big Heavyweight Shakeup! Plus: Lyle-Mathis, Bugner-Blin, Griffith-DeNucci, WBA, Jack Sharkey, the man who stopped Ali, Bennie Briscoe, Ray Lampkin, Kid Chocolate, Ernie Terrell, Walter Seeley, Chacon-Reyes.

Feb. 1973: Is Heavyweight Ron Lyle For Real? Plus: Ali-Foster, Duran-DeJesus I, Monzon-Briscoe II, Danny Lopez, Antonio Cervantes, Frazier-Foreman preview.

APRIL 1973

April 1973: Is Champ Foreman For Real? Plus: Foreman-Frazier I, Rudiger Schmidke, Hall Of Fame (Rosenbloom, Zivic, Jack, Papke, LaBarba), Sugar Ray Seales, Rodolfo Gonzalez.

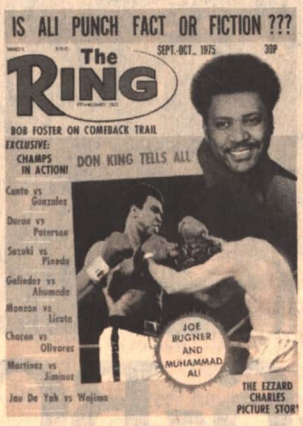
Aug. 1973: Joe Frazier: "I Will Beat Foreman Or Quit!" Plus: Ruben Olivares, Bobby Chacon, Carol Polis, Monzon-Griffith II, Vito Antuofermo, Herrera-Martinez, Lopez-Ordunez.

Oct. 1973: The Private Life Of George Foreman Plus: Carlos Monzon, WBA/WBC, Frazier-Bugner, George Foreman, DeJesus-Lampkin II.

Nov. 1973: World Title Fight Barrage! Plus: Foreman-Roman, Foster-Fourie, Joe Bugner, Gentleman Jim Corbett, Harry Greb, Anaya-Pinder, Henry Nissen, Muniz-Lopez.

Dec. 1974: Inside Story From Zaire! Plus: Foreman-Ali postponement, Bob Foster's retirement, Teofilo Stevenson, Chacon-Marcano, Roberto Duran, Jimmy Wilde & Barney Ross.

April 1975: Chuck Wepner Story: A Tale Out Of Fiction. Plus: Joe Louis, Redd Foxx, Hall of Fame (Curtis, Fullmer, Tiger, Klaus, Chaney), Alexis Arguello, Marvin Hagler, Chacon-Lopez, Ali-Foreman II?, Miguel Canto.



SEPT.-OCT.1975

Sept.-Oct. 1975: Is Ali Punch Fact Or Fiction? Plus: Don King, Ali-Bugner II, Monzon-Licata, Duran-Peterson, Olivares-Chacon, Galindez-Ahumada, Monroe-Hart, Ezzard Charles dies.

Aug. 1976: First American To Hold Word Title In Each Division. Plus: John L. Sullivan, Ali-Dunn, DeJesus-Suzuki, Zarate-Martinez, Foster's comeback, Duran-Mamby, Lopez-Gomez.

Sept. 1976: Ali-Norton: Special Heavyweight Issue! Plus: Vonzell Johnson, Palomino-Stracey, Galindez-Kates, Foreman-Frazier II, Arguello-Torres, Oscar Bonavena's death.

June 1977: What Now, George Foreman? Plus: Marvis Frazier, Carlos Palomino, Harold Weston, Antuofermo-Hart, Lyle-Bugner, Gazo-Castellini, Conteh-Hutchins, the comeback of George Chuvalo, Jimmy Young, Hagler-Monroe.

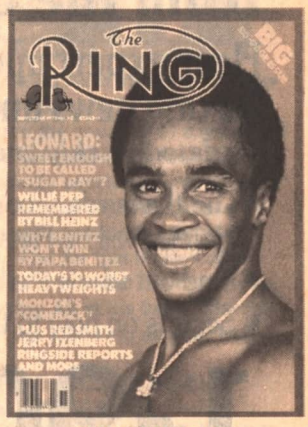
Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Winner To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Feb. 1978: Exclusive Coverage: Norton vs. Young. Plus: Galindez-Gregory, Saensak Muangsurin, Leon Spinks, Matt Franklin, Valdes-Briscoe, heavyweight comebacks, Jerry Quarry, Ray Leonard, Carlos Zarate

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Mike Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson II, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Aug. 1979: Fights You Want To See! Plus: Leonard-Geraldo, Hearns-Weston, Ron Lyle, James Scott, Jeff Chandler, Davey Moore, Scandinavian fighters, big-fight previews.

Sept. 1979: Is Holmes Ali's Successor? Plus: Holmes-Weaver, Duran-Palomino, Lopez-Ayala, Coetzee-Spinks, Pintor-Zarate, Tate-Knoetze, Kim-Guisseppi, Lopez-Ayala, Gomez-Hernandez, German greats, Rocky II.



NOVEMBER 1979

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 worst heavyweights, Monzon comback?, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ranzany, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers II, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

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☐ Jul/63	☐ Oct/65	☐ Sep/67	☐ Jan/69	☐ Aug/71	☐ Aug/76
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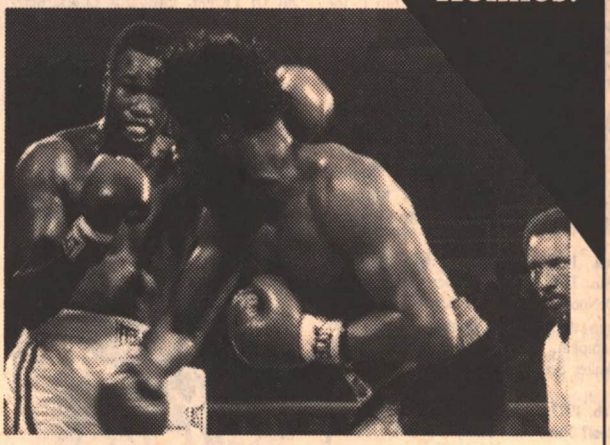

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Chavez

(Continued from page 64)

ably to his bank account. But beating Whitaker would add even more luster to his greatness. If Duva, King, and Camacho insist on bickering, the most likely scenario will be Chavez bypassing Whitaker and Camacho, and moving to welterweight. Chavez said he had trouble making 140 for the Smith fight, and he's already beaten every worthy junior welterweight.

At 147, however, he'd find more than his share of competition. Possible opponents include WBA champion Meldrick Taylor, WBC king Simon Brown, and top contenders Buddy McGirt, Maurice Blocker, and Glenwood Brown. (As we went to press, Blocker and Brown were scheduled to square off for the vacant IBF title.)

For Chavez, a move to 147 would mean an upgrade in opponents, as well as fatter purses—especially if Chavez-Taylor II materializes.

For several months, a rematch was as hot a matchup as boxing could offer. Given the controversial 12th-round stoppage of their brawl, everyone wanted to see them battle one more time. Certainly Taylor wanted to prove to the world that he would have won had Richard Steele not stopped the fight with two seconds left. And the proud Chavez undoubtedly wanted to show that his victory was no fluke.

But the rematch never took place. Taylor moved up to 147 and captured the WBA crown from Aaron Davis, while Chavez stayed at 140. If Chavez and Taylor simultaneously remain at welterweight for any length of time, there would be one less obstacle to hold up a rematch.

Should Chavez indeed become a welterweight, the usual questions will be asked. Will he carry his punch with him? Can he take the punches of bigger fighters? And considering that he will have jumped to his fourth weight class, is it possible that the Mexican will have gone one step too far?

Chavez is confident about his impending move. After fighting Smith, he said he had every reason to believe he could "take control" of the 147-pound division.

"The guy has such talent," said Tyson, referring to Chavez. "There's nothing he can't accomplish."

And yet, if he adds seven pounds, Chavez cannot be expected to remain undefeated much longer. Any one of the top five welterweights is a threat; they're bigger and stronger than anyone he's faced at 130, 135, or 140 pounds.

Consider:

● Simon Brown, 28, showed in his fight with Maurice Blocker that he may not be the best boxer in the division, but he possesses brutal power. Against Brown, Chavez undoubtedly will score his points, as Blocker did. But he won't score a knockout. And will Chavez' strong chin hold up against the punch of the WBC champion?

● Meldrick Taylor, 25, figures to win a decision if he stays clear of Chavez in the late going. But if Taylor's added weight affects his handspeed or stamina, he won't be able to hit Chavez as much as he did in their memorable duel. Moreover, the fact that Chavez knocked Taylor silly may have affected the WBA champion's confidence. Taylor doesn't seem to be the fighter he was before clashing with Chavez.

● Buddy McGirt, 27, has always been regarded as a thinking man's fighter. He's able to counter an opponent's strategy, and his excellent jab and hand speed could confuse Chavez. McGirt's record, 53-2-1 (42), makes him boxing's most experienced welterweight.

● Maurice Blocker, 28, the former WBC champion, proved against Brown that he's a pretty fair boxer. But Brown ultimately cut through his defense and leveled him. Chavez, though six inches shorter that the 6'1" Blocker, would have no problem cracking his taller foe's defense. But would he have the power to kayo Blocker?

● Glenwood Brown, 24, is perhaps the hardest puncher in the division. However, he has a weak defense. Chavez would pick him apart—if he didn't get tagged by a lucky punch.

Fights featuring Chavez and any of the aforementioned welterweights would offer boxing fans matchups intriguing enough to justify pay-per-view prices, if not ringside seats. But first King must put aside his differences with Duva and pay more attention to Chavez. Then we'll see how far J.C. Superstar can go. His time is not limitless, but, at least according to Tyson, his potential may be.

"It's going to take a helluva man to beat him," he said.■

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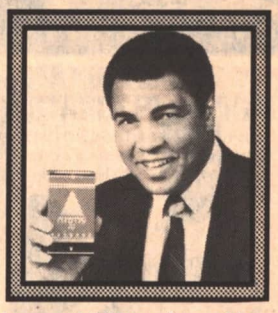

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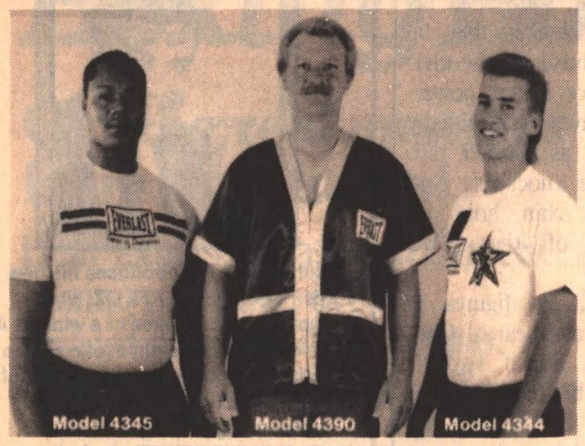

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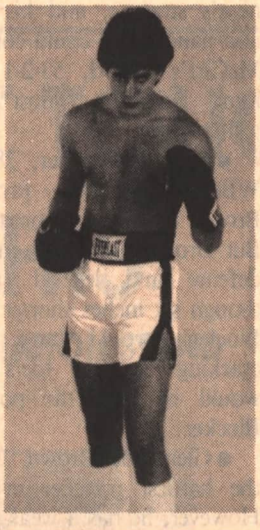

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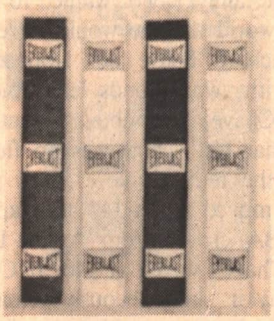

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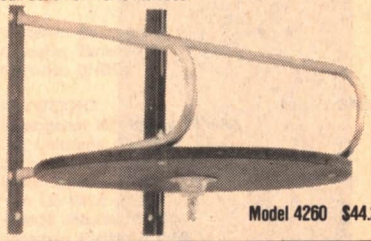

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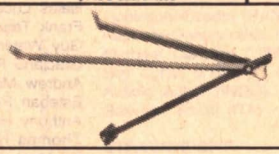

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Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of July

WBA as of August

IBF as of September

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	5
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	2	5	6
George Foreman (USA)	3	4	1
Riddick Bowe (USA)	4	7	3
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	5	6	7
Lennox Lewis (GB)	6	3	4
Michael Moorer (USA)	7	10	8
Alex Stewart (JAM)	8	-	-
Larry Holmes (USA)	9	-	-
Renaldo Snipes (USA)	10	-	-
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	2	2
Tommy Morrison (USA)	11	8	12
Tony Tucker (USA)	-	9	9
Carl Williams (USA)	14	-	10

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	1	-	-
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	8	6
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	3	-	11
Derek Angol (GB)	4	3	7
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	5	12	-
Mike Hunter (USA)	6	4	3
Taoufik Belbouli (FRA)	7	1	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	8	5	1
James Warring (USA)	9	7	C
Craig Peterson (AUSTRL)	10	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	11	2	-
Phil Jackson (USA)	-	6	10
Akim Tafer (FRA)	18	9	-
Bash Ali (USA)	14	10	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	-	-	2
Iby Zimmerman (CAU)	-	-	4
Richard Mason (USA)	12	-	5
James Pritchard (USA)	-	-	8
Dwight Qawi (USA)	-	-	9

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Dennis Andries (GB)	C	-	-
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	1	5	9
Virgil Hill (USA)	2	3	3
David Vedder (USA)	3	-	-
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	4	4	4
Frank Tate (USA)	5	-	1
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	6	-	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	7	2	2
Andrew Maynard (USA)	8	1	8
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	9	7	7
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	10	6	5
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	C	-
Ed Mack (USA)	-	8	-
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	12	9	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	29	10	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Freddy Delgado (PR)	17	-	6
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	1	5	7
Lindell Holmes (USA)	2	6	3
Tony Thornton (USA)	3	2	2
Randall Yonker (USA)	4	11	-
James Cook (GB)	5	1	9
Ron Essett (USA)	6	4	8
Dan Schommer (USA)	7	-	-
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	8	-	5
Tony Byrd (USA)	9	8	-
Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN)	10	3	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Troy Darrell (USA)	-	7	-
Vicenzo Nardiello (ITA)	17	9	-
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	11	10	12
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	-	-	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	-	1
John Jarvis (USA)	23	-	4
Thulani Malinga (SA)	-	-	6
Nelson Alves (GER)	19	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Dennis Milton (USA)	1	6	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	2	4	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	3	3	3
Herol Graham (GB)	4	12	4
Reggie Johnson (USA)	5	2	1
Michael Watson (GB)	6	-	-
Steve Collins (USA)	7	1	2
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	8	5	6
Nigel Benn (GB)	9	10	-
Lamar Parks (USA)	10	7	5
Mike McCallum (JAM)	-	C	-
Carlos Cruz (CHILE)	14	8	-
Thomas Tate (USA)	27	9	8
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Gerald McClellan (USA)	16	-	7
Kid Milo (GB)	-	-	9
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	24	-	10

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	1	2	1
Brett Lally (USA)	2	-	-
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	-	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	4	1	2
Jorge Vaca (MEX)	5	10	8
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	6	8	-
Mark Breland (USA)	7	3	3
Wally Swift (GB)	8	-	-
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	9	6	-
Chris Pyatt (GB)	10	-	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	-	C	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	25	4	5
Jun Sok Hwang (KOR)	-	5	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	7	12
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	9	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	13	-	4
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	-	12	6
Roy Jones (USA)	-	-	7
Vincent Pettway (USA)	-	-	9
Quincy Taylor (USA)	-	-	10

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Simon Brown (USA)	C	-	-
Buddy McGirt (USA)	1	2	1
Maurice Blocker (USA)	2	7	3
Glenwood Brown (USA)	3	3	2
Genaro Leon (MEX)	4	9	7
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	5	8	4
Marlon Starling (USA)	6	-	-
Luis Garcia (VEN)	7	4	6
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	8	10	-
Santos Cardona (PR)	9	-	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	10	-	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	11	1	8
Carl Daniels (USA)	-	5	5
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	12	6	-
David Gonzalez (USA)	17	-	9
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	1	2	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	2	3	-
Roger Mayweather (USA)	3	4	2
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	4	-	-
Pat Barrett (GB)	5	5	6
Harold Brazier (USA)	6	-	9
Loreto Garza (USA)	7	8	8

Rodney Moore (USA)	8	7	5
Greg Haugen (USA)	9	-	7
Terrence Ali (USA)	10	6	3
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	1	-
Pyung Sup Kim (KOR)	22	9	-
Ignacio Bernal (COL)	-	10	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	12	-	1
Charles Murray (USA)	16	-	4
Andy Holligan (GB)	13	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	C	C
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	1	1	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	2	2	4
Jorge Paez (MEX)	3	5	1
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	4	-	2
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	5	8	7
Poli Diaz (SPA)	6	4	10
Carl Crook (GB)	7	-	11
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	8	-	-
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	9	-	8
Tracy Spann (USA)	10	6	3
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	3	-
Iwao Otomo (JAP)	17	7	-
Omar Flores (MEX)	14	9	-
Eduardo Molina (COL)	19	-	5
Miguel Julio (COL)	-	-	6
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	12	10	9

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	1	2	-
John-John Molina (PR)	2	-	1
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	3	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	4	1	8
Daniel Londas (FRA)	5	3	5
Bernard Taylor (USA)	6	-	6
Pedro Gutierrez (ARG)	7	-	-
Marcos Guevera (VEN)	8	-	-
Takeyuki Akagi (JAP)	9	7	-
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	10	8	12
Joey Gamache (USA)	-	C	-
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	17	4	-
Anibal Nieves (VEN)	-	5	-
Mon Soon Kim (KOR)	22	6	-
Eugene Speed (USA)	16	9	-
Harold Warren (USA)	-	10	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	-	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	23	11	2
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	-	3
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	20	-	4
Calvin Grove (USA)	14	-	7
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	-	-	9
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	10

FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	C	-	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	1	6	12
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	2	3	11
Louie Espinoza (USA)	3	-	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	4	-	C
Miguel Francia (ARG)	5	-	-
Ever Beleno (COL)	6	8	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	7	-	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	8	4	1
Kevin Kelley (USA)	9	7	10
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	10	9	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	12	1	9
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	2	8
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	-	5	-
Colin McMillan (USA)	26	10	-
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	2
Troy Dorsey (USA)	-	-	3
Jose Rodriguez (PR)	-	-	4
James Leija (USA)	19	-	5
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	6
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	18	-	7

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	1	2
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	2	-	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	-	9
Pedro Decima (ARG)	4	-	5
Arcelio Diaz (COL)	5	5	3
Paul Banke (USA)	6	-	-
Chun Huh (KOR)	7	-	-
Freddy Cruz (DR)	8	2	-
Ki Jun Lee (KOR)	9	-	-
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	10	10	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	-	C	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	12	3	8
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	4	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	6	6
Porfirio Hernandez (MEX)	-	7	-
Noree Jockygym (THAI)	19	8	-
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	11	9	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Baby Rojas (USA)	-	-	1
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	4
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	23	11	7
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	-	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Greg Richardson (USA)	C	-	-
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	1	-	11
Raul Perez (MEX)	2	-	10
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	3	-	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	4	-	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	5	3	-
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	6	8	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	7	-	-
Hector Acero (DR)	8	6	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	9	9	2
Eliecer Julio (COL)	10	2	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	C	-
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	1	1
Junior Jones (USA)	13	4	7
Yun Chun Min (KOR)	11	5	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	19	7	5
Luis Malave (VEN)	-	10	-
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	12	-	3
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	4
Billy Hardy (GB)	15	-	6
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	-	-	8
Fernie Morales (USA)	17	-	9

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Johnny Tapia (USA)	1	3	3
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	2	1	10
Armando Castro (MEX)	3	7	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	4	2	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	5	-	12
Nana Konadu (GHA)	6	-	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	7	6	-
Torsak Pongsupa (THAI)	8	-	-
Carlos Mercado (COL)	9	-	1
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	10	-	-
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	11	4	-
David Griman (VEN)	22	5	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	-	8	-
Rey Paciones (PHIL)	13	9	2
Hugo Soto (ARG)	-	10	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Ole Kieatwonway (THAI)	-	-	4
Joel Luna (MEX)	-	-	5
Satoshi Shingaki (JAP)	-	-	6
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	7
Chatohai Tanieul (THAI)	-	-	8
Marianus (INDO)	26	-	9

FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	1	-	10
Jung Koo Chang (KOR)	2	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	-	6
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	4	4	-
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	5	-	-
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	6	2	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	7	8	8
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Hugo Soto (ARG)	9	-	-
Richard Clarke (JAM)	10	-	4
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	12	1	1
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	20	3	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	-	5	-
Julio Gudino (PAN)	19	6	-
Leo Gamez (VEN)	-	7	-
Torsak Osotsapha (THAI)	-	9	-
Scotty Olson (USA)	-	10	9
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Dodi Penalosa (PHIL)	15	-	2
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	3
Pichit Sitbangprachan (THAI)	-	-	5
Al Kotey (GHA)	11	-	7

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	1	11	1
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	2	10	3
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	7	7
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	4	1	-
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	5	2	-
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	6	9	-
Jeung Keun Lim (KOR)	7	-	-
Ismael Rodriguez (MEX)	8	-	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	9	-	5
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	6
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	C	-
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	-	3	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	30	4	9
Jacob Matlala (SA)	-	5	12
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	22	6	2
Kajkong Danphoothai (THAI)	28	8	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Boy Lucas (PHIL)	-	-	4
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	8
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	-	10

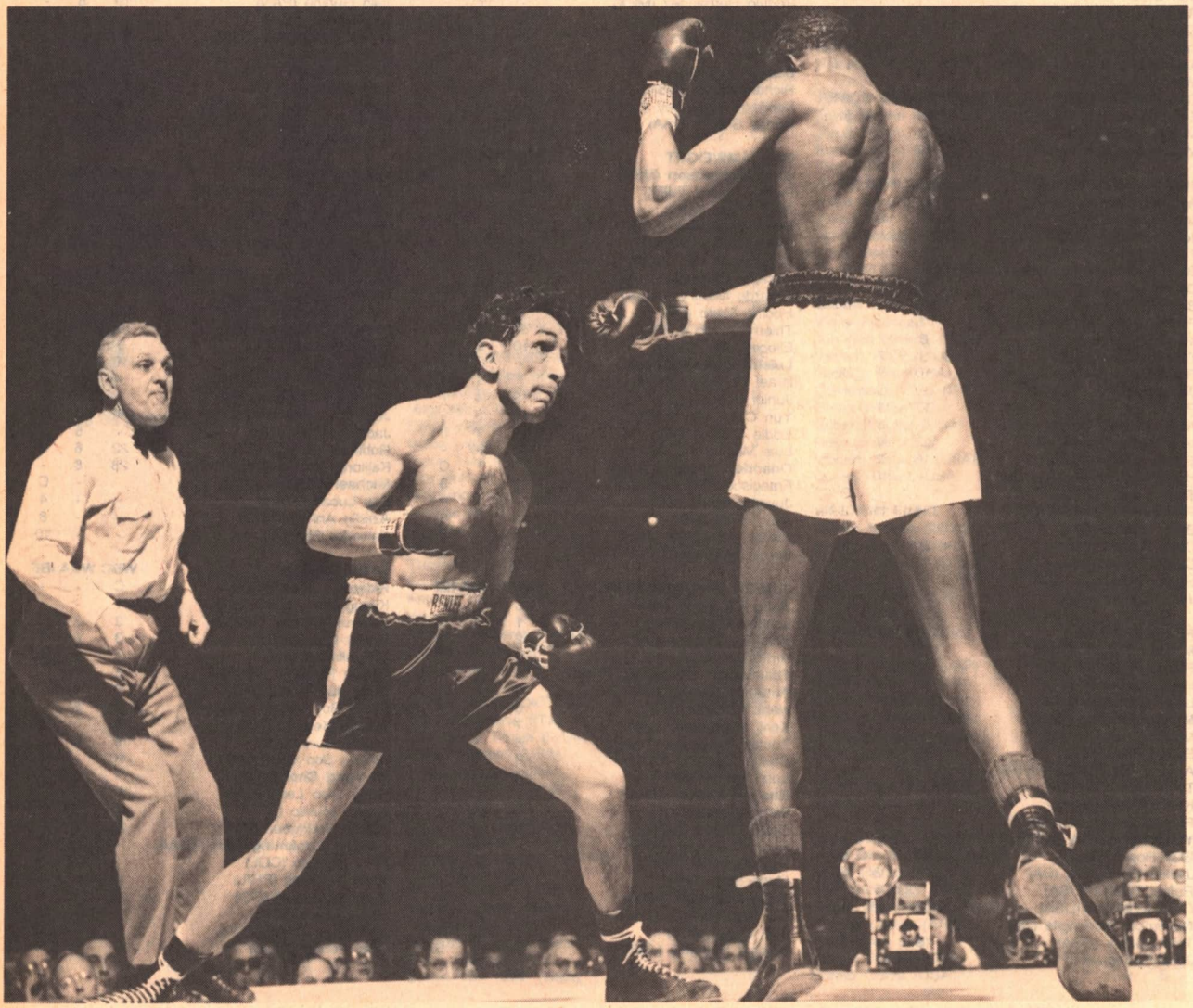
STRAWWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	1	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	2	3	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	3	6	3
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	4	9	2
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	5	2	-
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	6	1	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	7	5	-
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	8	-	8
Danny Nunez (DR)	9	11	-
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	10	-	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	11	4	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	21	7	7
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	27	8	-
Far-Lan Lookmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	1
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	14	10	4
Said Iskandar (INDO)	25	-	5
Eric Chavez (PHIL)	-	-	6
Soo Yong Kwon (KOR)	-	-	9
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	10

PEP STAR IN FIGHT OF YEAR

From The Ring, February 1950

By Nat Loubet

Boxing's most dramatic fight of 1949 took place in New York's Madison Square Garden on February 11. It was a thriller between Willie Pep, former world featherweight champ, and the man who relieved him of the crown, Sandy Saddler. The hatchet-faced Italian from Hartford, Connecticut, amazed a throng of 19,097 by regaining the championship in 15 torrid rounds. So keen was the interest in the fight that a new high for a world featherweight championship contest was recorded, with a $87,563 gross. In their previous affair, on October 29, 1948, the "Nutmeg Flash" was knocked out in the fourth round and lost the championship.



In 1949's Fight of the Year, Willie Pep regained the featherweight title by scoring a 15-round decision over archrival Sandy Saddler.

A careful screening of thousands of professional bouts held during the past year failed to bring out any contest that could match this epic battle for thrills. In consequence, the Saddler-Pep return engagement has been designated by *The Ring* as the Fight of the Year.

It was a contest that had everything the fight fan could desire—clever maneuvering, hard hitting, and even gory manifestations, without which a fight is meaningless to so many of the fans.

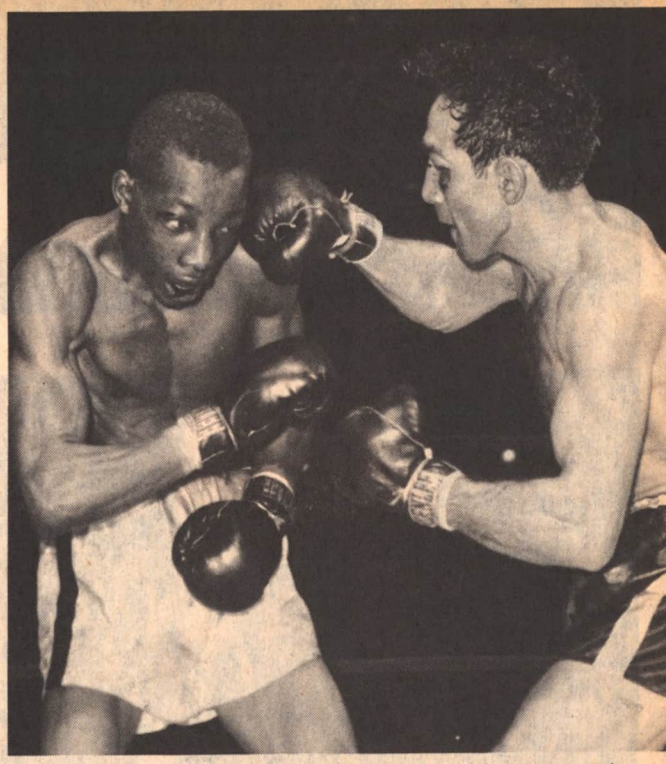
Those who crowded into the House That Tex Built expected a sensational fight and were not disappointed. They saw a former champion, burdened with advancing years after a long and busy career, stand up and fight like a youngster.

Pep's four-round kayo by Saddler had led many to believe that the Pep of old was gone. They also saw Saddler, the new champion, who, as an underdog a few months before, had scored a stunning victory over this same Pep.

***

The odds on the contest at ring time were 6-5, take your pick, but the wise heads picked Saddler and blamed the even-steven odds on the sentimentality of Pep fans, going all out to back their idol.

From the opening gong through the 15 action-packed rounds, there was not a moment that wasn't filled with suspense and drama. Both fighters left the ring, their blood-smeared faces a mass of punch-puffed lumps that



Pep boxed magnificently in the rematch, utilizing superior speed, movement, and skills. Saddler, by far the bigger puncher, couldn't land often enough.

THE RING RATINGS, *February 1950*

Manuel Ortiz

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Title Vacant**

1. **Ezzard Charles**, Cincinnati, OH
2. **Jersey Joe Walcott**, Camden, NJ
3. **Lee Oma**, Detroit, MI
4. **Bruce Woodcock**, England
5. **Lee Savold**, Paterson, NJ
6. **Pat Valentino**, San Francisco, CA
7. **Turkey Thompson**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Jimmy Bivins**, Cleveland, OH
9. **Omelio Agramonte**, Cuba
10. **Kid Riviera**, St. Louis, MO

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Freddie Mills**, England

1. **Joey Maxim**, Cleveland, OH
2. **Archie Moore**, St. Louis, MO
3. **Leonard Morrow**, Oakland, CA
4. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Bert Lytell**, Fresno, CA
6. **Bob Murphy**, San Diego, CA
7. **Billy Smith**, Oakland, CA
8. **Dave Whitlock**, San Francisco, CA
9. **Nick Barone**, Syracuse, NY
10. **Tommy Yarosz**, Monaca, PA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Jake LaMotta**, New York, NY

1. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
2. **Dave Sands**, Australia
3. **Steve Belloise**, New York, NY
4. **Robert Villemain**, France
5. **Tiberio Mitri**, Italy
6. **Art Towne**, New York, NY
7. **Carl Olson**, Honolulu, HI
8. **Laurent Dauthuille**, France
9. **Lee Sala**, Donora, PA
10. **Rocky Graziano**, New York, NY

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY

1. **Kid Gavilan**, Cuba
2. **George Costner**, Cincinnati, OH
3. **Bernard Docusen**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Charley Fusari**, Irvington, NJ
5. **Lester Felton**, Detroit, MI
6. **Johnny Bratton**, Chicago, IL
7. **Ronnie Delaney**, Akron, OH
8. **Gene Burton**, New York, NY
9. **Frankie Fernandez**, Honolulu, HI
10. **Ross Virgo**, Rochester, NY

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ike Williams**, Trenton, NJ

1. **Freddie Dawson**, Chicago, IL
2. **Arthur King**, Toronto, Canada
3. **Maxie Docusen**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Sonny Boy West**, Baltimore, MD
5. **Art Aragon**, Hollywood, CA
6. **Tommy Campbell**, Rock Island, IL
7. **Rudy Cruz**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Enrique Bolanos**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Kid Dussart**, Belgium
10. **Solly Cantor**, Toronto, Canada

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Willie Pep**, Hartford, CT

1. **Sandy Saddler**, New York, NY
2. **Ray Famechon**, France
3. **Ronnie Clayton**, England
4. **Henry Davis**, Honolulu, HI
5. **Charley Riley**, St. Louis, MO
6. **Percy Bassett**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Miguel Acevedo**, Cuba
8. **Tirso del Rosario**, Philippines
9. **Glen Flanagan**, St. Paul, MN
10. **Harold Dade**, Chicago, IL

BANTAMWEIGHTS

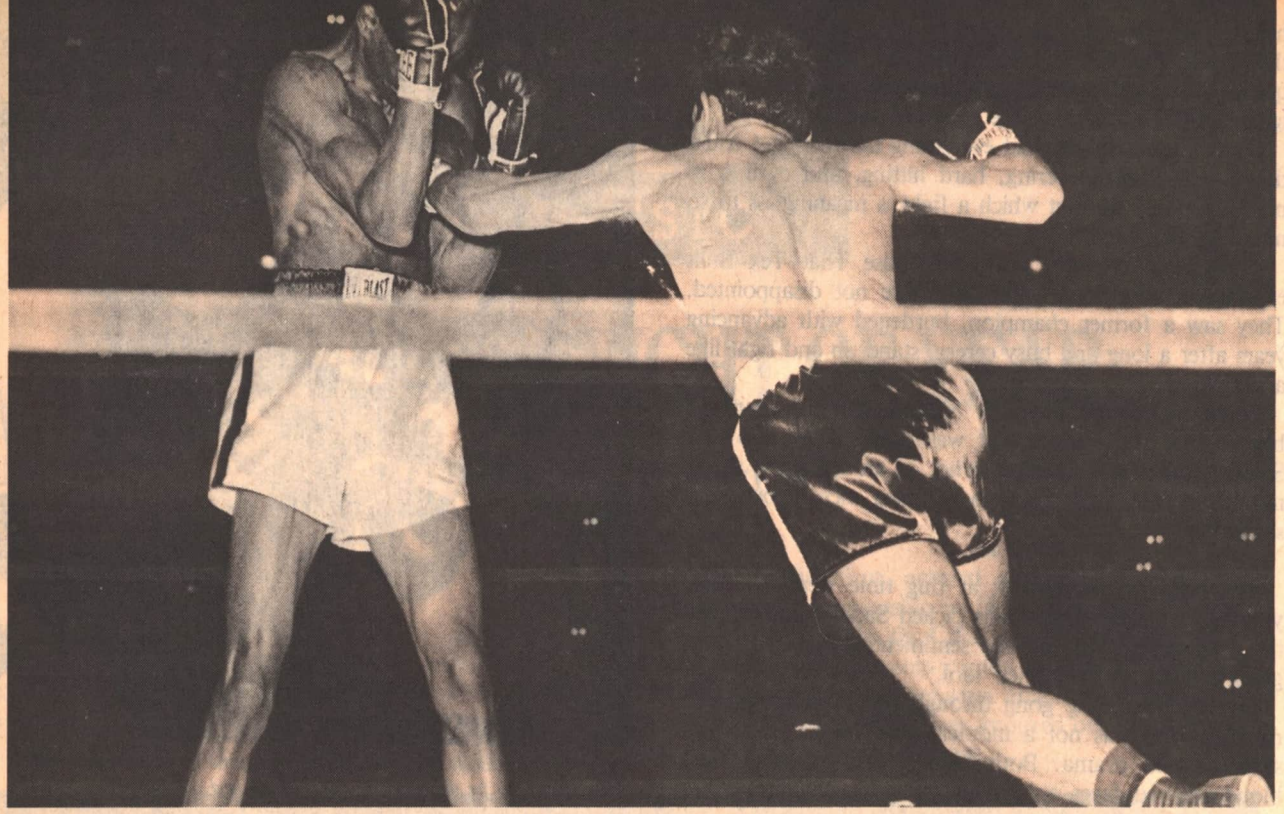
World Champ: **Manuel Ortiz**, El Centro, CA

1. **Luis Romero**, Spain
2. **Danny O'Sullivan**, England
3. **Elley Bennett**, Australia
4. **Luis Galvani**, Cuba
5. **Theo Medina**, France
6. **Guido Ferracin**, Italy
7. **Memo Valero**, Mexico
8. **Teddy Gardner**, England
9. **Vic Towell**, South Africa
10. **Reuben Smith**, Los Angeles, CA

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Rinty Monaghan**, Ireland

1. **Honore Pratesi**, France
2. **Terry Allen**, England
3. **Maurice Sandeyron**, France
4. **Jean Sneyers**, Belgium
5. **Dickie O'Sullivan**, England
6. **Norman Lewis**, Wales
7. **Mickey Hill**, Australia
8. **Peter Keenan**, Scotland
9. **Norman Tennant**, Scotland
10. **Black Pico**, Cuba



Pep-Saddler II featured action from start to finish. Darting in and out with the speed and energy of his prime, Pep, who had been stopped by Saddler in four rounds less than four months before, stunned the champion with sudden flurries. He tired in the late rounds, but held on to take a unanimous verdict by scores of 9-5-1, 9-6, and 10-5.

left no doubt as to the punishment they had absorbed and dished out.

Pep was once again the featherweight king, but he knew he had been in a real scrap. The fight put up by Saddler was such as to make a return between these two one of the standout attractions of 1950.

The lad from Hartford had 11 stitches sewed into his face and around his eyes, and Saddler required seven.

The first round set the pattern for the fight. Pep, using every trick in his repertoire, moved rapidly. He spun Saddler from side to side as the Negro attempted to land with his most potent weapon, a left hook to the head and body, the latter thrown in close while holding with his right.

It was this technique that Saddler had used so successfully to win the crown. But as the bout progressed, it became evident that this strategy could not be executed.

Willie outgeneraled Saddler. Pep moved in and out, hooked with his left, and jammed three and four times before the slower Saddler could move out of range. Willie ducked under Sandy's guard to maul and push him off-balance, and then, when set up, moved with his speed of old, launching a two-fisted bombardment that bewildered the champ.

Saddler was the aggressor throughout the entire fight. He stalked Pep, attempting to move in close, where he could land his vaunted body blows. Now and then he'd corner the elusive Old Master, and in the exchanges that followed, Pep took a great deal of punishment. But Saddler was unable to land hard enough or often enough to swing the course of the battle.

At the end, it was a victorious Pep who left the ring, but of the two, Willie had suffered more physically.

At the two-thirds mark, although Saddler had been moving into Pep, Sandy was far behind the challenger on points.

The fans were as breathless as the contestants at this stage of the bout. The struggle had been a two-fisted slaughter, with neither fighter asking nor giving quarter. It was only the vast assortment of tricks that Willie pulled out of his bag that kept him from being tagged.

The 10th saw Saddler break through Pep's defense and nail him with a terrific right to the chin. Pep's legs sagged, his eyes became glassy. He was a tired fighter.

After 15 wild rounds, Pep was the new champion—though he looked like the loser. In his third and fourth fights vs. Saddler, he would suffer stoppage defeats.

Dr. Vincent Nardiello examines Pep in the winner's dressing room and isn't sure whether to first stitch cut A, B, C, D, or E. Note the ice bag in Pep's right hand.

Saddler was in at his foe like a tiger, and he chopped away with both hands in an endeavor to end it all.

But Pep still had his main asset—the knowledge that he had amassed over years of successful boxing—and ring savvy. That came to his aid now, as he covered, backpedaled, and fought his way out of danger.

In the next three rounds, Pep came back strong, while Saddler tired. And so the battle see-sawed.

In the last two rounds, Saddler ripped Pep with savage rights and lefts to the body and head, and it appeared that the challenger would go down. But his fighting heart and keen brain got Willie through those last two sessions.

The final round was a sight that had the entire gathering on its feet for three solid minutes. Saddler, realizing that his one chance for victory now lay in knocking out his challenger, threw caution to the winds. He piled into Pep with everything he had.

Lefts and rights smothered Willie, and he was on the verge of sinking to the canvas a number of times. In the last minute, only the courage born of desperation and dogged determination kept Pep on his feet.

When the bell rang ending hostilities, it was an exhausted Willie who went back to his corner. He had made it, but only by a hairbreadth. Had Saddler won more of the earlier rounds, or had he not blown those near the finish, he would have kept the title.

The decision was unanimous, with judge Frank Forbes calling it 9-5-1, judge Jack O'Sullivan giving it to Pep at 9-6, and referee Eddie Joseph calling it 10-5 for Willie.

Another year has been recorded in the history of pugilism. The struggles, hardships, joys and sorrows, and victories and defeats all are down in the annals. On that page reserved for all-time thrills is listed the second Pep-Saddler fight, which of all has to be given the call as the Fight of the Year, 1949.■

THE RING, February 1950

The Cover: *The Ring* celebrates the year gone by in its annual review issue. "The year was far from being one of boxing's best," writes Johnny Salak. "However, as usual, it supplied its laughs, its heartaches, its dramatic touches, its rhubarbs, and its good fights."

Fighter Of The Year: NBA heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles is the choice of Publisher Nat Fleischer. Charles won the title by outpointing Jersey Joe Walcott, and retained it by stopping Gus Lesnevich (photo) and Pat Valentino. Runners-up: Sugar Ray Robinson, Willie Pep, and Ike Williams.

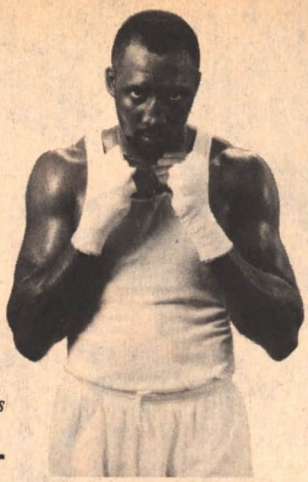
Promising Faces: Jersey Jones examines boxing's most promising prospects. Among the youngsters mentioned is a heavyweight from Brockton, Massachusetts, named Rocky Marciano. "He fights out of an awkward crouch," Jones writes, "and doesn't seem to have much of a defense. We'd like to see the slugger against real opposition."

A Middleweight Muddle: Ted Carroll previews the middleweight division and concludes that it should provide plenty of punch in the new year. Jake LaMotta, Carroll says, is a worthy world champion, and contender Rocky Graziano is among boxing's hottest attractions. Also nearing the top: New York's Jimmy Flood, Australia's Dave Sands, and France's Robert Villemain and Laurent Dauthuille (pictured).

Fighter Of The Month: Robert Villemain receives the honors, based on his convincing non-title triumph over middleweight king Jake LaMotta in New York City. As it would turn out, Villemain would never meet LaMotta for the title. In 1950, he would lose twice to "The Raging Bull's" successor, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



Hearns: Lots of options

"HIT MAN'S" HIT LIST

Ever since dethroning Virgil Hill, WBA light heavyweight champion Thomas Hearns has been considering his options. And every week those options seem to multiply. At first, it was assumed that Hearns would rise in weight and challenge WBA cruiserweight champion Bobby Czyz. Then Hearns' trainer, Alex Sherer, told me that before moving up, the "Hit Man" might make a couple of defenses of his newly won crown. (The WBA's number-one contender at 175 pounds is Andrew Maynard.) A couple of weeks ago, I heard that Hearns was thinking about bulking up for a try at Evander Holyfield, should the heavyweight champion retain the title by defeating Mike Tyson.

Now the latest: A source close to newly crowned IBF cruiserweight champion James Warring informed me that preliminary negotiations had begun for a Warring-Hearns battle. Maybe Hearns wants to revitalize the Seniors Tour. Warring, boxing's sixth oldest champion, will be 33 in November. (He's a month younger than Hearns.)

IS THE WEIGHT WORTH IT?

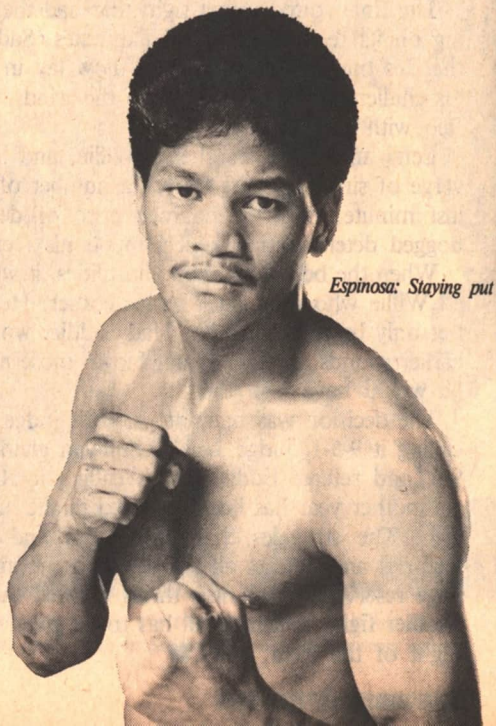
Former IBF featherweight champion Troy Dorsey, who was dethroned by Manuel Medina in August, wants a rematch early in 1992. "I want to regain the title," he told me. "I lost to a 126-pound weakling."

Part of the reason Dorsey lost, however, is because, having to reduce from 148 pounds, *he* was a 126-pound weakling.

A few days before the fight, Dorsey scaled 132 before breakfast, and 139 immediately after. Daily hour-long sessions in the steam room allowed him to make 126 at the weigh-in, but he says he entered the ring at 138, and weighed 147 only one day later. The experience confused Dorsey and trainer Casey Malone; it was the first time the Texan had to battle the scales. But it probably won't be the last.

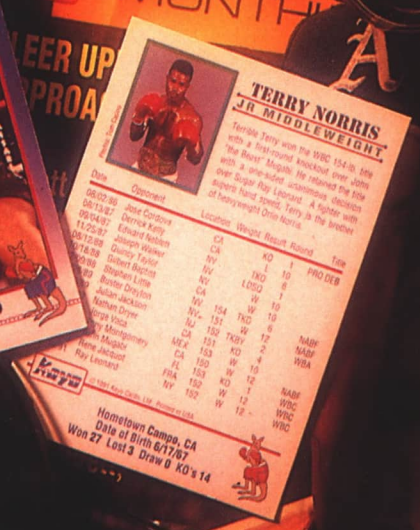
LISTEN UP

If WBC bantamweight champion **Greg Richardson** successfully defends against **Joichiro Tatsuyoshi**, and if **Raul "Jibaro" Perez** dethrones WBA junior featherweight champion **Luis Mendoza**, look for Richardson-Perez II, contested at 122 pounds. Of course, that's a lot of ifs . . . Light heavyweight **Anthony Hembrick** is ready to make his move. He'll either square off against Kronk's **Leeonzer Barber** or challenge IBF champion **Prince Charles Williams** . . . WBA bantamweight champion **Luisito Espinosa** will indeed make at least one more defense before vacating and rising in weight . . . The **Azumah Nelson-Jeff Fenech** rematch will take place in Melbourne, Australia, in December. Predictably, money is what lured the champion to Fenech's land down under. Nelson will earn about $500,000, Fenech perhaps as much as $1-million. ■



Espinosa: Staying put

INSTANT KNOCKOUT



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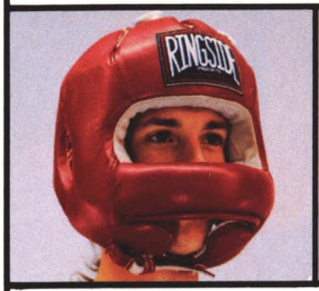

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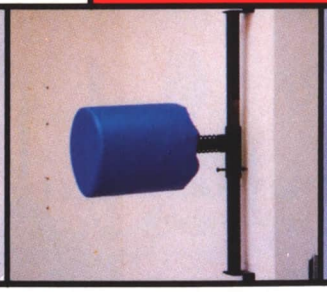

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